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ENGLAND DELINEATED;

OR, A

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

OF EVERY COUNTY IN

ENGLAND AND WALES:

WITH A CONCISE ACCOUNT OF

ITS MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCTS,

NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL.

FOR THE USE OF YOUNG PERSONS.

With Outline Maps of all the Counties.

THIRD EDITION,

CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED.

Such noble warlike ſteeds, ſuch herds of kine,
So ſleek, ſo vaſt; ſuch ſpacious flocks of ſheep,
What other paradiſe adorn but thine,
Britannia? - - - - - - - -
- - - To theſe thy naval ſtreams,
Thy frequent towns ſuperb of buſy trade,
And ports magnific add, and ſtately ſhips
Innumerous. DYER'S FLEECE.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

M.DCC.XCV.

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PREFACE.

IT is the principal object of this work to make my young countrymen better acquainted than they are uſually found to be with their native land. The utility of ſuch a deſign will not be queſtioned. The reaſons which induced me to think the preſent attempt particularly ſeaſonable, and the manner in which I have endeavoured to fulfil my purpoſe, ſhall be briefly diſplayed.

Tours through England, and accounts of Engliſh Geography, in various forms, are publications ſufficiently common and numerous; and new editions, with alleged improvements, are ſucceſſively appearing as they are called for; but it will be no breach of critical candour to aſſert, that they are, for the moſt part, works of a very low order in literature, abounding with groſs faults both of plan and execution. Tedious de-

ſcriptions of objects, either abſolutely trivial in themſelves, or intereſting only to readers of a particular turn; relations become totally erroneous through length of time, and tranſmitted, unchanged, from one ſucceſſive compilation to another; weak and illiberal partialities, local and national, with inelegancies and vulgariſms of every kind;—theſe are defects from which none of them that I have ſeen can be called tolerably free; and which certainly render them little proper to be put into the hands of youth, and indeed much leſſen their value to readers of all ages. Yet, as books of reference, ſome of them will continue to be uſeful, till a work ſhall be executed which I conſider as one of the greateſt of literary *deſiderata*—an accurate and comprehenſive account of the preſent ſtate of theſe kingdoms, under the ſeveral heads of natural and political hiſtory, agriculture, and commerce. The adequate execution of ſuch a deſign would demand the long-continued labours, not of one man only,

only, but of ſeveral perſons aſſociated, who ſhould be perfectly qualified for the different departments; and it can never be executed without a liberal public encouragement.

The preſent performance ſcarcely pretends to be an imperfect outline of ſuch a plan. The leading idea purſued in it was, to ſketch out ſuch a general view of each county, with reſpect to its geography, products natural and artificial, commerce, towns, and other principal objects, as might impreſs upon the mind a diſtinct notion of its diſcriminating character and relative conſequence. In doing this, the greateſt difficulty, next to that of collecting proper materials, was to keep a due medium between the meagre unintereſting manner of a catalogue, and ſuch a minuteneſs of detail as would have amplified the work beyond its propoſed limits, and would, if not equally diffuſed through the ſeveral parts, have rendered the whole diſproportionate. How far this point has been attained, the reader muſt determine;

but few can form an adequate judgment of the difficulty of ſuch a taſk, without actual experience in attempting it.

The *geographical deſcriptions* were purpoſely made ſomewhat diffuſe, that they might ſerve as exerciſes in that very uſeful branch of ſtudy; and therefore ought to be read with a good map in hand.

The ſtate of *cultivation*, *trade*, and *manufactures*, in this kingdom, has undergone ſo many changes, even within a ſhort period, that it was not poſſible to derive from books alone ſuch information as might be depended upon. Therefore, beſides conſulting ſome of the moſt modern tours through particular diſtricts, and hiſtories of particular towns and counties, I thought it neceſſary to apply for written information to perſons reſiding in various parts of the country; and, in conſequence, I have been favoured with a number of communications, eſpecially relative to the ſeveral branches of commerce and manu-

facture, from the moſt reſpectable authorities, which, I flatter myſelf, have enabled me to give more authentic, though conciſe, accounts of a variety of important objects, than have hitherto appeared in print. I cannot, however, but lament that my opportunities for obtaining this beſt kind of information have not been every where alike.

Antiquities I have almoſt entirely paſſed over. The neceſſary details on this ſubject could not poſſibly be brought within the preſcribed limits of this work; and the publications already extant have given much more copious and genuine information on this head than on the preſent circumſtances of things.

For reaſons ſomewhat ſimilar, I have ſcarcely given any notices concerning *family hiſtory, noblemen's and gentlemen's ſeats, pleaſure grounds, proſpects*, and the like.

Wherever a proper occaſion offered, I have been deſirous of introducing *hiſtorical*

matter of importance, as connected with ſome particular place; in order that, by ſuch an aſſociation, the events might be forcibly impreſſed upon the memory of a young reader. I have, however, taken ſuch facts rather from the later than the earlier periods of our hiſtory, as being better authenticated, and of greater conſequence to us at preſent.

It remains for me to return my beſt thanks to thoſe correſpondents who have favoured me with aſſiſtance in collecting materials for this work. Were I to name them all, the liſt might appear rather a diſplay of oſtentation than of gratitude; nor can I ſuppoſe that they would all chooſe to appear in public as contributors to ſo humble a performance. I ſhall therefore requeſt of them to accept my general acknowledgments. Two names of benefactors I muſt, however, beg leave to particularize—One is that of ROBERT BRANSBY COOPER, Eſq. reſiding at Durſley, to whoſe elegant pen I am indebted for the account, almoſt entirely as it is printed, of the

the county of Glouceſter—the other is that of THOMAS PENNANT, Eſq. a gentleman, who, by his aſſiduous labours, has contributed more than any other perſon, ſince the great *Ray*, to elucidate the zoological part of the natural hiſtory of this country; and has, beſides, in his various tours, made us acquainted with a great number of curious and intereſting particulars of the ancient and modern ſtate of a large part of the kingdom; and, while he has conveyed uſeful information to his readers, has, at the ſame time, laboured to eradicate all mean and ungenerous prejudices and partialities. I have not only borrowed freely from his printed works, but have obtained from his friendſhip the liberal uſe of ſeveral papers which he had collected reſpecting the ſtate of the ſouthern coaſt of this iſland.

JOHN AIKIN.

Great Yarmouth,
Sept. 1, 1788.

ADVERTISEMENT
TO THE
THIRD EDITION.

THE printed reports of that moſt uſeful inſtitution the *Board of Agriculture*, have afforded the author an opportunity of correcting and enlarging his deſcription of the general appearance, ſoil, and products, of moſt of the counties, of which, on this republication, he thought he could not, without injuſtice to his work, refuſe to avail himſelf.

J. A.

London,
Sept. 20, 1794.

INTRODUCTION.

ENGLAND IN GENERAL.

ENGLAND, including *Wales*, is the largeſt and moſt ſouthern part of the iſland of *Great Britain*, which is itſelf the principal of the European iſlands. It is every where ſurrounded by the ſea, except on that part where it joins with a narrow neck to Scotland. Its general figure is triangular, with one point to the north, another to the eaſt, and another to the weſt. Of its three ſides, the weſtern is the longeſt and moſt irregular, being broken and interſected by various points of land, and arms of the ſea. If a ſtraight line be drawn from Berwick upon Tweed to the Land's-end in Cornwall, it will give, for the weſtern ſide,

four

four hundred and twenty-five ſtatute miles. The ſame, drawn from Berwick to the South Foreland in Kent, will give, for the eaſtern ſide, three hundred and forty-five miles: and the triangle completed, by a line from the South Foreland to the Land's-end, will have a ſouthern ſide of three hundred and forty miles. But theſe meaſurements would amount to a great deal more if we were to follow all the windings of the ſea-coaſt.

The face of the country in England affords all that beautiful variety which can be found in the moſt extenſive tracts of the globe. In ſome parts, verdant plains extend far as the eye can reach, watered by copious ſtreams, and covered with innumerable cattle. In others, the pleaſing viciſſitudes of gently-riſing hills and bending vales, fertile in corn, waving with wood, and interſperſed with meadows, offer the moſt delightful landſcapes of rural opulence and beauty. Some tracts abound with

with proſpects of the more romantic kind; lofty mountains, craggy rocks, deep narrow dells, and tumbling torrents: nor are there wanting, as a contraſt to ſo many agreeable ſcenes, the gloomy features of black barren moors and wide uncultivated heaths. On the whole, however, few countries have a ſmaller proportion of land abſolutely ſteril and incapable of culture.

The richeſt parts of the country are, in general, the midland and ſouthern. Towards the north it partakes of the barrenneſs of the neighbouring Scotland. The eaſtern coaſt is in many parts ſandy and marſhy. To the weſt, the whole country of Wales is a mountainous tract, intermixed indeed with vales of great fertility. Another range of rude and elevated land, ſometimes riſing into lofty mountains, extends from the borders of Scotland to the very heart of England, running perpendicularly from north to ſouth, and forming a natural diviſion between the eaſtern and weſtern

weſtern ſides of the kingdom, during its courſe. The county of Cornwall, too, which, like a great promontory, juts into the Atlantic Ocean, is a rough and hilly tract; and a ſimilar character prevails in parts of the adjacent counties. Theſe mountainous regions, however, contribute greatly to the wealth and advantage of the whole, by the mineral treaſures with which they are amply furniſhed.

The rivers of England are numerous; but the extent of the country will not admit of ſuch a length of courſe as would allow them to vie in greatneſs with the rivers of the continent. Thoſe of the northern parts, ariſing from the middle ridge of hills, have but a ſhort run each way to the ſea. In the midland diſtricts, the *Trent* and *Ouſe* find room for a moderate length of courſe. The *Severn*, in the weſt, ſpringing near the ſea, and taking a large ſemicircular ſweep to reach the ſame ſea again, flows over a ſpace which entitles it to rank at leaſt as

the

the ſecond river of England. The *Thames*, taking its riſe not far from the weſtern ſide, and running acroſs to the eaſtern ſea, gains a greater diſtance from its ſource to its mouth than any of the reſt.

The lakes of England are few and inconſiderable for extent. The principal of them lie in the north-weſtern counties.

Various bays, creeks, and inlets of the ſea are formed all round the coaſt. On the eaſtern ſide, the moſt conſiderable are, the *Humber*, an arm of the ſea into which many rivers pour their ſtreams. Then the *Waſh*, a broad but much ſhallower inlet, the ſands of which are for the moſt part bare at low water. The mouth of the *Thames* next opens into a ſort of funnel, produced by the retiring coaſt of Eſſex on the one hand, and Kent on the other. Then ſucceed the *Straits of Dover*, where this iſland ſo nearly approaches the continent. The *Iſle of Wight*, the harbour of *Portſmouth*,

Portſmouth, and the creek running up to *Southampton*, break the regularity of the ſouthern coaſt; which afterwards makes ſeveral bays and ſemicircular ſweeps in its progreſs to the *Land's-end*. On turning to the weſtern ſide, the moſt remarkable of all the inlets, the ſpacious *St. George*'s, or *Briſtol channel*, appears, which, with the wide mouth of the Severn, cuts deeply into the broadeſt part of the iſland. The oppoſite *Welſh* coaſt is broken by various bays and indentations; and beyond the next turn of the land ſucceeds the large and deep *bay of Cardigan*. Then the *Iſle of Angleſea* repels the waters of the Iriſh ſea, and gives a new direction to the coaſt, which, running inwards, forms a kind of vaſt bay with the *Lancaſhire* and *Cumberland* coaſts, into which ſeveral broad and ſhallow mouths of rivers enter, and which is protected to the ſeaward by the *Iſle of Man*. *Solway frith* terminates the Engliſh coaſt, and forms a natural boundary on part of the Scotch border, which the *Cheviot-hills* and the *Tweed* nearly complete.

With

With reſpect to *climate*, England is ſituated in the northern part of the temperate zone, ſo that it enjoys but a ſcanty ſhare of the genial influence of the ſun. Its atmoſphere is inclined to chilneſs and moiſture, ſubject to frequent and ſudden changes; and is more favourable to the growth, than to the ripening, of the products of the earth. No country is cloathed with a more beautiful and laſting verdure; but the harveſts, eſpecially in the northern parts, frequently ſuffer from unſeaſonable rains; and the fruits often fall ſhort of their perfect maturity. The rigours of winter, however, as well as the parching heats of ſummer, are felt here in a much leſs degree than in parallel climates on the continent; a circumſtance common to all iſlands. While the ſea-ports in Holland and Germany are every winter locked up with ice, thoſe of England, and even of Scotland, are never known to ſuffer this inconvenience. The weſtern ſide of the kingdom, receiving firſt the great clouds from the Atlantic Ocean, which are

afterwards intercepted in their paſſage by the middle ridge of hills, is conſiderably more expoſed to rain than the eaſtern; but the latter is more frequently involved in fogs and miſts. The whole country, ſome particular ſpots excepted, is ſufficiently healthy; and the natural longevity of its inhabitants is equal to that of almoſt any region.

All the moſt valuable productions, both animal and vegetable, of this country, have been imported from the continent, and have been kept up and improved by conſtant attention. Originally, this great iſland ſeems to have been, like the wilds of America, almoſt entirely over-run with wood, and peopled only by the inhabitants of the foreſt. Here formerly roamed the bear, the wolf, and the wild boar, now totally extirpated. Large herds of ſtags ranged through the woods, roebucks bounded over the hills, and wild bulls grazed in the marſhy paſtures. By degrees, the woods were deſtroyed,

ſtroyed, in order to make way for cultivation; the marſhes were drained; and the wild animals, invaded in their retreats, gradually diſappeared, and their places were ſupplied by the domeſtic kinds. England now poſſeſſes no other wild quadrupeds than ſome of the ſmaller kinds; ſuch as the fox, the wild cat, the badger, the martin, and others of the weaſel kind; the otter, the hedgehog, the hare and rabbit; the ſquirrel, dormouſe, mole, and ſeveral ſpecies of the rat and mouſe. On the other hand, every kind of domeſtic animal, imported from abroad, has here been reared to the greateſt degree of perfection. The horſe has been trained up for all the various purpoſes of ſtrength and ſwiftneſs, ſo as to excel in thoſe qualities the ſame animal in every other country. The horned cattle have been brought to the largeſt ſize and greateſt juſtneſs of ſhape. The different races of ſheep in England are variouſly diſtinguiſhed, either for uncommon ſize, goodneſs of fleſh, and plenty or fineneſs of wool. The deer

of our parks, which are originally a foreign breed, are ſuperior in beauty of ſkin and delicacy of fleſh to thoſe of moſt countries. Even the ſeveral kinds of dogs have been trained to degrees of courage, ſtrength and ſagacity, rarely to be met with elſewhere.

The improvement in the vegetable productſ of this iſland is not leſs ſtriking than in the animal. Nuts, acorns, crabs, and a few wild berries, were almoſt all the variety of vegetable food which our woods could boaſt. To foreign countries, and to the efforts of culture, we are indebted for our bread, the roots and greens of our tables, and all our garden fruits. The barley and hops for our malt liquors, and the apples for our cyder, are equally the gifts of other lands. The meaneſt labourer now is fed with more wholeſome and delicate aliments than the petty kings of the country could obtain in its ſavage and uncultivated ſtate.

The

The rivers and ſeas of England are ſtocked with a great variety of fiſh, which yield a plentiful article of proviſion. The river fiſh, indeed, from the populouſneſs of the country, and the number of fiſhers, are in many parts much diminiſhed. But the ſea is an inexhauſtible ſource; and every exertion of induſtry, to procure food from thence, is amply repaid. The fiſheries are at preſent a great object of attention; and the whole ſea-coaſt is enlivened by numerous inhabitants, who gain their chief ſubſiſtence from the deep.

Such, in general, is the country which we inhabit; ſufficiently favoured by nature, yet greatly indebted alſo to induſtry; for, if this powerful ſpring were to ſlacken, the wild wood, the tangled thicket, and the pathleſs moraſs, would again cover the land, and it would become a fit reſidence only for the ſavage beaſts, and the hunter not leſs ſavage.

We now proceed to the particular conſideration of thoſe principal diviſions into which civil policy has diſtributed the kingdom. Theſe are the *counties* or *ſhires*; of which England, properly ſo called, contains forty, and Wales twelve. The order in which theſe are given is a matter of no great conſequence; but as one muſt be adopted in preference to others, I have choſen a geographical arrangement, as beſt ſuited to the intention of the work, and the manner in which the ſubjects are treated.

THE

COUNTIES

OF

ENGLAND AND WALES

ARRANGED.

Six Northern;
- Northumberland,
- Cumberland,
- Durham,
- Yorkſhire,
- Weſtmoreland,
- Lancaſhire.

Four bordering on Wales;
- Cheſhire,
- Shropſhire,
- Herefordſhire,
- Monmouthſhire,

Twelve Midland;
- Nottinghamſhire,
- Derbyſhire,
- Staffordſhire,
- Leiceſterſhire,
- Rutlandſhire,
- Northamptonſhire,
- Warwickſhire,
- Worceſterſhire,
- Glouceſterſhire,
- Oxfordſhire,
- Buckinghamſhire,
- Bedfordſhire.

Eight Eaſtern;
- Lincolnſhire,
- Huntingdonſhire,
- Cambridgeſhire,
- Norfolk,
- Suffolk,
- Eſſex,
- Hertfordſhire,
- Middleſex.

Three

Three South-eaſtern; { Surry, Kent, Suſſex.

Four Southern; { Berkſhire, Wiltſhire, Hampſhire, Dorſetſhire.

Three South-weſtern; { Somerſetſhire, Devonſhire, Cornwall.

Six North-Wales; { Flintſhire, Denbighſhire, Caernarvonſhire, Angleſey, Merionethſhire, Montgomeryſhire.

Six

Six South-Wales;	Radnorſhire, Cardiganſhire, Pembrokeſhire, Caermarthenſhire, Brecknockſhire, Glamorganſhire.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

ENGLAND DELINEATED.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

THIS is the moſt northerly county in England, and, by its termination in a ſharp point, forms a regular angle for the boundary of the kingdom on this ſide. The county is of a triangular figure, its eaſtern ſide leaning on the ocean; its weſtern joining to Scotland and Cumberland; and its ſouthern bordering with a more irregular line on Cumberland and Durham. Its natural boundaries are in moſt parts mountains or rivers. For ſize it is among the largeſt, its greateſt length being near ſeventy miles, and its breadth, at the ſouthern extremity, above forty.

The face of the country in this large tract is various, but on the whole inclining to nakedneſs and ſterility. The mountainous diſtricts abſolutely

abſolutely unfit for tillage compriſe more than a third of the land. The moſt fertile tracts are on the eaſtern ſide, in the vales through which the rivers run in their courſe to the ſea. Many of theſe are very fruitful in corn and paſture. Woods are chiefly confined to the banks of rivers, but new plantations are riſing in various parts of the county. The ſouth-weſtern angle is an extremely dreary and barren tract, though rendered valuable by its lead mines. To the north of this are ſome fertile dales around the hilly regions; but the country about *Readſdale* is ſo boggy as to be almoſt an impaſſable deſert. The *Cheviot Hills*, near the northern angle, are the moſt valuable of the mountainous tracts, being in general fine green hills, thrown into a great variety of forms, whoſe ſloping verdant ſides incloſe many narrow deep glens. No mineral is found in them except granite or whinſtone, of which the mountains are chiefly compoſed. Theſe hills feed abundance of ſheep of a peculiar breed: goats alſo are kept

among them. The ſtate of the poor ſhepherds is as miſerable as that of human creatures can well be; and the country has been greatly depopulated by the practice of throwing many ſmall farms into ſingle ones of vaſt extent, conſiſting either of wide ſheep-walks, or immenſe corn fields. Some of the fineſt cattle in the kingdom are, however, fed in parts of the Scotch border. The central part of the country riſes in rocky hills of no great height, but ſtretching into melancholy waſtes.

The principal river of Northumberland is the *Tyne*, formed of a ſouthern branch, coming out of Durham, and a northern one from the hills on the border: theſe, uniting a little above Hexham, form a large river, which, flowing on to Newcaſtle, empties itſelf into the ſea at Tinmouth. A great quantity of water comes down theſe ſtreams, which frequently occaſions terrible inundations.

The centre of the country is croſſed by the river *Coquet*, which joins the ſea at Warkworth,

worth, celebrated for its ancient caſtle and hermitage.

The *Tweed*, after dividing Northumberland from Scotland for a conſiderable ſpace, and receiving the *Till*, which waters the northern angle of the county, at laſt turns ſhort acroſs the extreme point to Berwick, and there mixes with the ſea. We ſhall hence begin to trace the coaſt.

The town of *Berwick upon Tweed* was once a very ſtrong fortreſs, and of the greateſt importance when England and Scotland were two hoſtile nations, to each of which it alternately belonged, or was conſidered as a diſtrict ſeparate from both countries. It has now happily loſt its conſequence, though ſtill fortified; and is chiefly remarkable for its great ſalmon fiſhery, which furniſhes it with a valuable object of exportation. It alſo exports corn, wool, and a prodigious number of eggs, which are ſent to London for the uſe of the ſugar-refiners. It has a ſmall importation of timber from Norway and the Baltic.

Southwards, near the ſhore, lies *Holy-iſland* or *Lindisfarn*, once the ſee of a biſhop, and ſtill diſtinguiſhed by the ruins of its cathedral. It is inhabited by a few fiſhermen.

The next object worthy notice is *Bamborough Caſtle*, ſituated on a promontory, once of great ſtrength, but now remarkable for the humane purpoſe to which it is applied in conſequence of a bequeſt of lord Crew, biſhop of Durham; namely, the reception and relief of ſhipwrecked mariners.

Nearly oppoſite to this lies a group of rocky iſlets, called the *Farn iſles*, the reſort of multitudes of ſea-fowl in the breeding ſeaſon, particularly of the Eider duck, from which the ſofteſt and lighteſt down is procured.

Conſiderably farther to the ſouth, off the mouth of the *Coquet*, is ſituated a little iſland of the ſame name.

At the mouth of the river flowing down from Morpeth, called *Cammas water*, is a ſmall port from which corn and grindſtones are exported.

At

At *Blyth* is another creek, forming a port, whence are ſent coals and ſalt; and a little ſouthward, near Seaton Delaval, an artificial harbour has been made, called *Hartley-haven*, whence the ſame commodities, together with glaſs and copperas, are exported.

The mouth of the Tyne ſucceeds; the great inlet and outlet of this part of the country. Juſt within it, on the Northumberland ſide, is *North Shields*, a very populous but dirty place, inhabited by ſailors, carpenters, and other artificers concerned in the ſhipping buſineſs. Veſſels of large burthen take in their ladings at this part of the river.

The Tyne flows broad and moderately deep to the large and populous town of *Newcaſtle*, ſituated in the centre of the great collieries, which have for centuries ſupplied London, all the eaſtern, and moſt of the midland and ſouthern parts of the kingdom, with coals. This traffic has been the ſource of great opulence to Newcaſtle; which, beſides, exports large quantities of lead, ſalt, ſalmon, butter, tallow, and grindſtones; and imports

imports wine, and fruit from the ſouth of Europe, and timber, iron, hemp, &c. from the Baltic and Norway. Ships are ſent from hence to the Greenland fiſhery. It likewiſe poſſeſſes manufactories of ſteel and iron, and of woollen cloth; and in the town and neighbourhood are ſeveral glaſs-houſes. The ſtreets in the old part of Newcaſtle are unſightly and narrow, and the buildings greatly crowded together; but ſome of the newer parts are handſome and commodious. The ſuburbs are chiefly inhabited by keel-men; a rough and ſturdy race, employed in carrying the coals down the river in their keels, or lighters, to the large ſhips.

At this town terminated the ancient *Picts* or *Roman wall*, which ſtretched acroſs the iſland to Carliſle, and was intended to keep off the incurſions of the fierce northern tribes.

The vale in which the Tyne here flows is very fertile and beautiful. At ſome diſtance up it is *Hexham*, a town noted for its manufactory of tanned leather, ſhoes,

and gloves. Near this place, in 1463, was fought a very bloody battle between the parties of York and Lancaſter, in which the latter was defeated.

The county town of Northumberland is *Alnwick*, upon the little river *Aln*, north of the Coquet. It is a place of ſmall conſequence, chiefly noted for its princely manſion of the Percies, from ancient times the great feudal lords of this part of the kingdom.

Numerous ruined caſtles ſcattered over this county ſtrongly mark the ſtate of mutual dread and hoſtility, in which the Engliſh and Scotch borderers lived before the happy union of the two kingdoms under one head. Many bloody conflicts aroſe from the plundering incurſions continually made on both ſides, in which vaſt tracts of country were laid deſolate with all the circumſtances of ſavage ferocity; and, in the more important expeditions, not a town eſcaped from occaſionally undergoing the ravages of fire and ſword. Among the

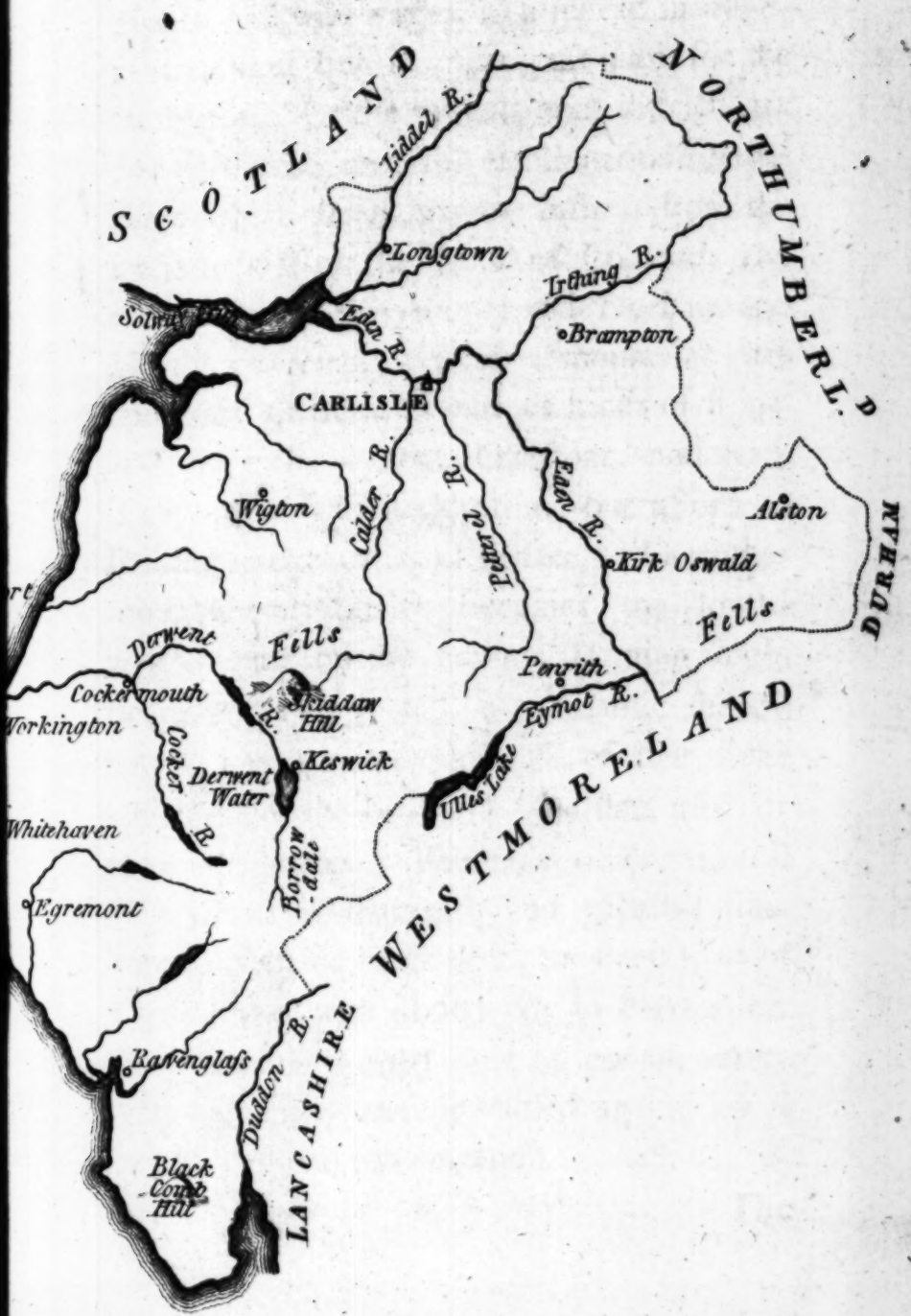
pitched

pitched battles fought in this county, none were ſo conſiderable as that of *Halidown-hill*, near Berwick, in 1333, in which Edward III. defeated the Scots with great ſlaughter; and that of *Floddon*, on the banks of the Till, where the Earl of Surry, in 1513, totally routed the Scots, who loſt in the conflict their valiant king James IV.

CUMBERLAND.

THIS county borders to the north upon Scotland, from which it is ſeparated towards the ſea by Solway-frith, and internally, for the moſt part, by a ſmall brook: on the weſt, it is bounded by the Iriſh ſea, into which it projects with a convexity like a long hooked beak, the point of which deſcends to the detached part of Lancaſhire; from hence its ſouthern concave line runs contiguous, firſt to the ſmall portion of Lancaſhire, and then to the whole breadth of Weſtmoreland: the eaſtern ſide is bounded by the counties of Northumberland and Durham. Cumberland is a county of conſiderable ſize, ſtretching, from its ſouthern point to its north-eaſtern, almoſt eighty miles, and its greateſt breadth being forty miles, though this is only in a ſmall part. It is, however, one of the leaſt populous in the kingdom, its general character being that of a country of bleak mountains, naked moors,

CUMBERLAND.


SCOTLAND
NORTHUMBERL.
DURHAM
WESTMORELAND
LANCASHIRE
Liddel R.
Longtown
Irthing R.
Brampton
Eden R.
CARLISLE
Wigton
Calder R.
Petterl R.
Eden R.
Alston
Kirk Oswald
Derwent Fells
Fells
Penrith
Cockermouth
Workington
Skiddaw Hill
Eymot R.
Derwent R.
Keswick
Derwent Water
Ulles Lake
Cocker R.
Whitehaven
Borrow dale
Egremont
Ravenglass
Duddon R.
Black Comb Hill

moors, and wild waſtes, rich indeed in mineral treaſures, but in great part unfit for the cultivator. Of the mountainous diſtricts are two diviſions; one, the continuation of that ridge which ſeparates the eaſtern from the weſtern ſides of the north of England, and runs between this county and Durham and Northumberland. Theſe mountains are compoſed of ſtrata of various kinds of ſtone, and are rich in coal, limeſtone, and lead. They are of a high elevation, but afford no ſtriking irregularities of ſurface. The other mountainous diſtrict occupies the ſouth-weſtern part of the county, forming high, ſteep, and craggy hills of romantic ſhapes, which are generally a maſs of that ſtone which yields the beautiful blue ſlate uſed for covering houſes. The only other mineral they afford is that rare and valuable ſubſtance, *wad*, or black-lead, the fineſt kind of which is met with abundantly in *Borrowdale*. Its mines are opened only at certain intervals, and then carefully cloſed again, leſt it ſhould become too common.

The cultivated parts of Cumberland produce ſome corn, but are chiefly devoted to grazing. The neat cattle of the country are a ſmall breed with long horns, of which numbers are reared, and ſold to drovers, who bring them ſouthwards to fatten under the name of Cumberland ſteers. The dairies produce a good deal of butter for exportation. A breed of ſmall ſheep with coarſe wool, but excellent fleſh, abounds on the hills.

Cumberland, with its neighbour Weſtmoreland, poſſeſſes more lakes than any other part of the kingdom. Of theſe one of the moſt beautiful is that of *Derwent-water*, in the *vale of Keſwick*, a ſpot which has lately become a frequent object of curioſity to travellers. To the north of this romantic piece of water ſoars the lofty mountain *Skiddaw*, one of the moſt diſtinguiſhed in England, and the haunt of eagles and other birds of prey.

The principal river of this county is the *Eden*, which, coming from Weſtmoreland, meets,

meets, on its arrival at the border of Cumberland, with the *Eymot*, flowing out of *Ulleslake*, and then runs northwards, till, on receiving the *Irthing* from the eaſt, it turns ſhort to Carliſle, below which, after being joined by the *Petterel* and other rivulets, it empties into Solway-frith. This river, as well as others in the county, is plentifully ſtored with ſalmon.

The *Derwent*, riſing in Borrowdale, flows firſt through the lake to which it gives name, and then through that of *Baſſingthwaite*, whence it turns to Cockermouth, and enters the ſea near Workington.

We ſhall now trace the ſea coaſt, beginning from its ſouthern point.

Ravenglaſs firſt offers its ſmall port, ſituated on a creek:

Then, after paſſing the mouths of two or three rivulets, ſucceeds *St. Bees-head*, a promontory noted for the reſort of ſea fowl. Its ſmall town is diſtinguiſhed by a ſeminary of learning, much frequented by the youth of the ſurrounding country.

A little beyond, on a ſmall bay, is *Whitehaven*, a large handſome town, and a port of very conſiderable commerce, though entirely of modern date. Its great ſource of traffic is in the collieries ſituated in its vicinity, which are ſome of the largeſt and moſt remarkable in the kingdom, being wrought to ſome diſtance under the bed of the ſea. Much of the coal is exported to Ireland and other parts. The town has alſo a trade to the Weſt Indies.

Somewhat further north is *Workington*, a port from whence a large quantity of coal is exported. This was the landing-place of the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots, when ſhe was driven to take refuge in the dominions of her inſidious rival, Elizabeth. In the neighbourhood of Workington is a large iron foundry; and at ſome diſtance up the river, at the conflux of the Cocker with the Derwent, is *Cockermouth*, a populous town, thriving by its manufactories of ſhalloons, worſted ſtockings, and hats.

Further along the coaſt lies *Maryport*, a new

new town raiſed by the coal trade, at the mouth of the little river Eln.

The coaſt is at length terminated by the inlet of *Moricambe*, at the entrance of Solway-frith. At *Burgh-upon-ſands*, on this latter arm of the ſea, died, in 1307, the great and victorious king Edward I. as he was preparing for an expedition againſt Scotland.

Carliſle, the capital of the county, is an ancient city, walled round, and very pleaſantly ſituated above a rich tract of meadows bordering the Eden, and two other rivers which here join it. It has a conſiderable manufactory of printed linens and checks, and is alſo noted for the making of whips and fiſh-hooks. Its fortifications, inſignificant as they are, cauſed it to be the ſubject of two trifling ſieges in the laſt civil war which infeſted this country, the rebellion of 1745.

Beyond Carliſle, near the river Eſk, on the Scotch border, is *Solway-moſs*, a large black moraſs, which, in the year 1771, being

being ſwoln by rains, burſt through the ſhell of turf which covers it, and ſpread an inky half-fluid deluge over four hundred acres of cultivated land in the neighbouring valley, which it entirely filled up.

Penrith, an inland town on the borders of Weſtmoreland, is a great thoroughfare, and a market town of ſome conſequence. A caſtle and ſeveral remains of antiquity are ſeen in its neighbourhood.

DURHAM.

NORTHUMBERLAND
CUMBER LAND
Derwent R.
Tyne R.
S. Shields
Sunderland
Were R.
Weardale Forest
Stanhope
DURHAM
Were R.
Hardepool
Teasdale Forest
Tees R.
Bishop Auckland
Skern R.
Barnard Castle
Staindrop
Stockton
Darlington
YORK

DURHAM.

THIS county has uſually been termed *the Biſhopritk*, on account of the great powers formerly poſſeſſed by the biſhop of the dioceſe, who was ſaid to have all the authority in Durham that the king exerciſed elſewhere. Theſe privileges, though much abridged, are ſtill conſiderable, the biſhop acting as lord-lieutenant of the county, and having the appointment of the high ſheriff. A third part of the county is ſuppoſed to be of eccleſiaſtical tenure.

Durham is of a triangular figure; its eaſtern or ſhorteſt ſide compoſed of ſea-coaſt, and the two others running obliquely inland, till they meet in a point on the confines of Cumberland. Northumberland lies to the north of it, ſeparated in part by the rivers Tyne and Derwent: Cumberland, to the weſt, ſeparated by barren hills and moors; and all its ſouthern boundary is

formed by the Tees, by which it is parted from Yorkſhire. Its greateſt length is about thirty-five miles, and its extreme breadth above forty-five.

The internal or weſtern angle of this county is in general a mountainous, naked, and barren region, being croſſed by that ridge of hills which has not unaptly been called *the Apennines of England*, though none of them here riſe to any conſiderable height. It is, however, enriched by mines of lead and iron; and the mineral tract continues along the northern ſide of the county, till it terminates with the great beds of coal which are found between the lower parts of the Tyne and Were. Coals are alſo met with on the ſouthern ſide. Quarries of the moſt uſeful kinds of ſtone are common, and the famous Newcaſtle grindſtones are the product of this county. The eaſtern and middle parts of Durham are for the moſt part fertile and agreeable, varied with hill and dale, arable and paſturage. It abounds in cattle, numbers of which are ſent to the

more

more ſouthern counties. The Tees-water bull and ram are both very fine animals of their ſpecies. The cattle are large, ſhort-horned, and reckoned equal in their produce of milk and quickneſs of fattening to almoſt any breed in the kingdom. Of ſheep, there are both the large long-wooled, and the ſmall fine-wooled kinds.

Of its rivers, the *Derwent* may firſt be mentioned, which, riſing near the wild borders of Northumberland, makes the boundary of the two counties for ſome ſpace; then, croſſing a corner of Durham, makes its way through a beautifully romantic tract to the Tyne, which it joins a little above Newcaſtle. On and near its banks towards its termination are ſome capital iron works, where the ore is ſmelted, and the metal caſt and wrought into various maſſy articles.

Through the midſt of the county winds a beautiful river, the *Were*, which riſes juſt in the weſtern angle, and receiving numerous tributary rills from the mountains, takes

its

its courſe along a fine valley, by the city of Durham, to the ſea below Sunderland.

The *Tees* riſes very near the ſource of the Were, and runs a winding courſe, of about equal length, to the ſea, which it enters with a broad mouth below Stockton. By its means the lead and corn of the county find a conveyance for exportation. The banks of both theſe rivers are rendered buſy and populous by a variety of works, as breweries, corn and paper mills, forges, and the like. In many parts, they, as well as the other ſtreams, are fringed with wood of conſiderable growth and value.

The ancient city of *Durham*, the capital of the county, and the ſeat of the richly beneficed clergy of its ſee, and of many of the neighbouring gentry, is a conſiderable place, irregularly built on a beautiful winding of the Were, whoſe banks are covered with woods, and edged with lofty crags. The cathedral is a large and magnificent edifice; the buildings of the city in general old. Durham poſſeſſes a manufactory of woollen

woollen goods, ſuch as ſhalloons, tammies flannels, and carpets: around it are grown large quantities of the beſt muſtard, which yields very profitable crops. *Nevil's-Croſs*, near this city, was erected in memory of a great victory obtained under the auſpices of Philippa, queen of Edward III. in 1346, over David Bruce, king of Scotland, who was taken priſoner in the action with many of his nobles.

Ten miles above Durham, on a high winding bank of the Were, is *Biſhop-Aukland*, a neat market town, diſtinguiſhed by the magnificent ſummer-palace, and beautiful park, of the Biſhop. It has a cotton manufactory.

Cheſter-le-ſtreet, on the Were, below Durham, has a capital iron foundery; and at *Birtley*, in its neighbourhood, is a remarkable ſalt ſpring, riſing at a great depth in the earth, and yielding a large quantity of excellent ſalt.

At the mouth of the Tyne, on the Durham ſide, lies the conſiderable and popu-

lous

lous village of *South-Shields*, which participates in the trade of Newcaſtle, many of the largeſt colliers loading there. Many ſhips are built at this place, and belong to it. There are alſo here ſaltworks (now declined in buſineſs) and glaſs-houſes.

Proceeding along the coaſt, *Sunderland* ſucceeds, a large and thriving town, which, for the exportation of coals, is next in conſequence, on this ſide of the kingdom, to Newcaſtle. Its port, on the mouth of the Were, though improved from its former ſtate, will not admit the largeſt ſhips: but veſſels can get out to ſea from hence much more readily than from the Tyne. The coals are brought down the Were from numerous pits near its banks. There are ſeveral glaſs-houſes at Sunderland; and it alſo exports grindſtones and other articles. *Biſhop's Weremouth*, almoſt adjoining to it, has a manufactory of ſail cloth. The whole circumjacent country is very populous.

The coaſt ſouthwards from hence is

rocky, and broken into deep caverns. The next port is *Hartlepool*, ſituated upon a little hook of land, forming within a ſafe harbour; the refuge of ſhips in ſtorms and contrary winds. Its own trade is not conſiderable; chiefly conſiſting of the fiſhery, and the export of lime, of which great quantities are burnt at the back of the town.

The Tees has no port at its mouth; but at ſome diſtance up the river is *Stockton*, a handſome flouriſhing town, which has a large manufactory of ſail cloth. Goods are imported here for the ſurrounding country; and the lead and corn, ſent down the river from the interior parts, are exported by commiſſion.

Darlington, in the ſouthern part of the county, has long been noted for the manufacture of the table and napkin linen called huckabacks. It is partly made from Engliſh flax from the ſouth of Yorkſhire, and partly from foreign, imported at Stockton. Moſt of it goes to London by ſea. This town has alſo a thriving manufactory of

woollen ſtuffs, or camlets, made chiefly from the wool of the neighbourhood: theſe are likewiſe principally ſent to London. Some ſmall wares of the Mancheſter kind are alſo made here; and there is a conſiderable trade in dreſſing leather. A curious water machine for grinding optical glaſſes, and for ſpinning linen yarn, has lately been erected here, the invention of a native of the town.

DURHAM
Tees Mouth
Tees R.
Gisborough
Whitby
Stokesley
WESTMORELAND
NORTH
RIDING
Richmond
Swale R.
Sedbery
Askrig
North Allerton
Ure R.
Scarborough
Thirsk
Helmsley
Pickering
Hummanby
Easingwold
New Malton
Flamborough Head
Rippon
Bridlington
Settle
Boroughbridge
Aldborough
Ouse R.
WEST
RIDING
EAST
RIDING
Knaresborough
YORK
Skipton
Ainsty
Liberty
Pocklington
Wharf R.
Canal
Ribble R.
Hodder R.
Harewood
Tadcaster
Market Weighton
Beverley
Hull R.
Hornsea
Keighley
Aire R.
Canal
Bradford
Leeds
Sherburn
Derwent R.
Selby
Ouse R.
Canal
Hull
Halifax
Calder R.
Wakefield
Pontefract
Snaith
Patrington
Huddersfield
Barnsley
Dun R.
Doncaster
Spurn Point
LINCOLN SHIRE
CHESH.
YORKSHIRE.

YORKSHIRE.

THIS county, double in ſize to any other in England, is bounded on the north by Durham and Weſtmoreland; on the eaſt by the German Ocean; on the weſt by Weſtmoreland and Lancaſhire; and on the ſouth by the counties of Cheſter, Derby, Nottingham, and Lincoln. Its moſt remarkable natural inland boundaries are, the river Tees to the north, the ridge of hills called the Engliſh Apennines to the weſt, and the arm of the ſea named the Humber to the ſouth-eaſt. The length of this county is above eighty miles, and its breadth an hundred. From its great extent it has been diſtributed into three main diviſions, called *Ridings*. Of theſe the North Riding comprehends the whole northern part from ſide to ſide, deſcending to the capital in the centre: the Eaſt Riding takes the ſouth-eaſtern part, from the river Ouſe to the ſea; and the

Weſt Riding compriſes all the reſt of the county, which is not only the weſtern, but moſt of the ſouthern part.

Yorkſhire, in this wide compaſs, contains an abſtract of the whole kingdom with reſpect to ſoil, products, and face of country. Towards the north-weſt and weſt it poſſeſſes all the grandeur and romantic variety of the mountainous regions. The middle part, from north to ſouth, is equal in fertility to moſt tracts of land in England. Part of the ſouth and ſouth-eaſt is marſhy, and affords excellent paſturage for cattle. Much flax is grown in parts of this diſtrict. The ſea-coaſt, except the ſouthern part of it, is in general naked and dreary, conſiſting of wide extended moors and barren hills.

This county is extremely well watered, and its rivers are diſpoſed in a ſingularly beautiful manner. They riſe, in general, in the mountainous ſkirts of the county, from the north-eaſt round to the ſouth-weſt; and, uniting as they proceed towards its centre, like

like the veins of a ſpreading leaf, at length terminate in one main trunk, which iſſues in the *Humber*. Of theſe the principal, and that which alone preſerves its name to the Humber, is the *Northern Ouſe*. The parents of this river are the *Ure* and *Swale*, riſing near each other in the romantic borders of Weſtmoreland. Theſe, after collecting all the rills from this mountainous region, unite at Aldborough, and from thence take the name of the Ouſe, which now forms a large river. It flows through York, where it is navigable for conſiderable veſſels; and afterwards receives the *Wharf*, coming down from the north-weſt: then the *Derwent*, loaded with all the ſtreams from the north-eaſt; and, laſtly, the *Aire*, formed by the united Aire and *Calder* from the weſt, and joined near its termination in the Ouſe by the *Dun* and its tributary ſtreams, from the ſouth-weſt. By this diſpoſition, as far as theſe rivers can be made navigable, all the parts of this extenſive county enjoy an intercourſe with each other, and with the ſea.

In deſcribing the objects chiefly worthy of notice in this county, I ſhall begin by tracing the ſea-coaſt.

From the mouth of the Tees the Yorkſhire coaſt commences high and rude, interſperſed with many fiſhing villages, ſingularly placed like neſts upon the ledges of the rocks. No coaſt in England abounds more in fiſh of various kinds than this; and it breeds an induſtrious and hardy race of fiſhermen, who purſue their prey to great diſtances, and ſupply the inland country for a large extent. The diſtrict of *Cleveland*, inland from the river Tees and the northern part of the coaſt, is a fertile, though hilly, country, grows much corn, and breeds great numbers of cattle.

Whitby, the fartheſt port in this county to the north, is a conſiderable town, which has a great traffic in the building of ſhips, and the carrying buſineſs. Its harbour is the beſt on this coaſt, and is protected by a fine pier; but it has no river-communication with the inland country. Several ſhips

are

are ſent from hence to the Greenland fiſhery. This place had the honour of initiating in his profeſſion the greateſt navigator that the world ever ſaw—the late much-lamented Captain Cook.

In the neighbourhood of Whitby are large works, in which alum is procured from a kind of ſlate. There is one of theſe works alſo at *Guiſborough* in Cleveland. The country inland from this part of the coaſt to a great extent is called the eaſtern moorlands, a wild mountainous tract, chiefly compoſed of a barren gritſtone.

Robinhood's bay, noted for fiſhing, ſucceeds; and next *Scarborough*, a large town, built on a rocky eminence, well known as a place for ſea bathing. It poſſeſſes a conſiderable ſhipping trade, and is much engaged in the fiſheries.

A remarkable promontory, called *Flamborough-head*, is the next diſtinguiſhed object, whoſe lofty ſnow-white cliffs are ſeen far out at ſea, and ſerve for a direction to ſhips. Its rocks are occupied by number-

leſs multitudes of ſea fowl of various kinds, which fill the air and ocean all around. Inland from Flamborough begins an elevated tract of country, called the *wolds*, which widening as it proceeds, extends at laſt from Malton almoſt to the Humber. It is a cold and dry diſtrict, abounding in ſheep, and productive of corn. Immediately ſouth of the Head begins *Bridlington* or *Burlington bay*, a place of refuge for the coaſting veſſels. It has a village called *Burlington quay*, where ſhips load and unload. This place is much frequented for ſea bathing. From hence the coaſt runs low and unvaried to the *Spurnhead*, a long ſickle-ſhaped promontory, guarding the mouth of the Humber.

Turning up this large arm of the ſea, we come to the great port of *Hull*, or *King ſton upon Hull*, the rivulet upon which it is ſituated. This is a fortified town, and was the firſt that ſhut its gates againſt Charles I. but its fortifications are now inconſiderable, while its commerce has gone on increaſing, ſo as to render it probably the fourth port

for

for buſineſs in the kingdom. Its ſituation is extremely advantageous; for, beſides its communication with the Yorkſhire rivers and canals, it has alſo acceſs, by means of the Humber, to the Trent and all its branches and communications, now greatly increaſed by navigable canals: hence it has the import and export trade of many of the northern and midland counties. The foreign trade is chiefly to the Baltic; but it has alſo regular traffic with the ſouthern parts of Europe and with America. More ſhips are ſent from hence to Greenland than from any other port, that of London excepted. The coaſting trade, for coals, corn, wool, manufactured goods, &c. is very extenſive. The harbour of Hull is artificial, conſiſting of a dock, ſaid to be the largeſt in the kingdom, with which the river communicates. The conſtruction of a new dock is now in contemplation.

The country to the north and eaſt of Hull, called *Holderneſs*, is in general a flat tract of land, with a very rich ſoil, and is remarkable

markable for its large breeds of horned cattle and horſes. The town of *Beverley*, in this diſtrict, is a neat well-built place, poſſeſſed of a fine ancient minſter.

The city of *York* has always been conſidered as the capital of the north, and in point of rank, as the ſecond in the kingdom; and, though it is now left behind in wealth and populouſneſs by many of the newer trading towns, it ſtill ſupports a conſiderable degree of conſequence, and is inhabited by many genteel families. Its minſter is reckoned the moſt elegant and magnificent gothic ſtructure in the kingdom, Lincoln perhaps excepted. From its top is ſeen a vaſt extent of country, particularly the open Wolds to the eaſt, ſtretching almoſt to the ſea. A ſandy fertile vale extends from the eaſt of York ſeveral miles, in a north-weſterly direction on the courſe of the Ouſe and Swale. The races at York have been much frequented as well as thoſe at Doncaſter and other places in this county, which is celebrated for its fine breeds of horſes

horſes of the race and hunting kinds, as well as for the knowledge of the inhabitants in all the arts of jockeyſhip.

Aſcending the Ouſe, to the Ure, we come to *Rippon*, which had once a manufactory of hardware, now almoſt extinct. It is chiefly remarkable at preſent for its market of corn and butter. Rippon has an ancient minſter.

The ſources of the Ure and the Swale are in the diſtrict called *Richmondſhire*, formerly a county of itſelf; a region abounding in romantic ſituations, and noted for the neatneſs and induſtry of its inhabitants, who manufacture knit ſtockings and other coarſe goods. Many lead mines are wrought in theſe parts. The hilly tracts are generally known under the name of the weſtern moorlands. A great number of ſmall hardy horſes are bred among them. Of the vales by which they are interſected, Wenſleydale, through which the Ure flows, is moſt diſtinguiſhed for its beauty and fertility.

Southward from hence lies the wide diſtrict

trict of *Craven*, an open and hilly country, famous for breeding and feeding great numbers of cattle. Two of the higheſt hills in England, *Ingleborough* and *Whernſide*, are in this tract. The country about *Settle* is noted, among botaniſts, for the variety of curious and uncommon plants among its rocky ſcars.

The weſtern ſide of Craven abounds with limeſtone, which is not to be found ſouthwards between this diſtrict and ſeveral miles within Derbyſhire. A ſtripe of limeſtone, about five or ſix miles broad, traverſes Yorkſhire from north to ſouth, leaving the high barren moors of Black Hamilton to the eaſt, and Knareſborough foreſt to the weſt, paſſing on the weſtern ſide of Tadcaſter, and after leaving Doncaſter two or three miles on the eaſt, proceeding onward into Nottinghamſhire. Botaniſts know when they are within a mile of this ſtripe by ſeveral plants not found on grit-ſtone.

Eaſt of Craven lies that ſterile tract, now indeed moſtly encloſed, called *Knareſborough foreſt*.

foreſt. Its inhabitants are chiefly employed in manufacturing coarſe linen cloths, ſuch as huckabacks and ſheeting, which they carry to Knareſborough market. This town has fine remains of an ancient caſtle, which, with the Foreſt, are part of the eſtates of the Dutchy of Lancaſter. There are ſeveral very peculiar cuſtoms among the laws of the Foreſt.

Below Craven commences the *clothing country*, the great ſcene of the induſtry, wealth, and populouſneſs, of the Weſt Riding. The manufacture of woollen cloths and ſtuffs, of late years greatly increaſed, extends over a tract, of which Leeds, Bradford, Haliſax, and Wakefield, are the principal centres. The rivers Aire and Calder, flowing through the midſt of it, give fruitfulneſs to the country, and facility to the tranſport of manufactures and raw materials. The Aire is navigable from Leeds; and there is a canal from this town to Holmbridge beyond Skipton, which is meant to extend to the diſtant port of

Liverpool.

Liverpool. With this, Bradford has a communicating branch. From Wakefield the Calder is made navigable to Sowerby, above Halifax. The plenty of fuel in this country, the introduction of machines to ſhorten labour, and the induſtry and ſobriety of the inhabitants, greatly promoted by the excellent mode in which the manufacture is carried on, which is by ſmall makers in the little towns and villages, who take their goods to the larger markets—all theſe circumſtances have cauſed trade to flouriſh here, at the expenſe of the weſtern parts of the kingdom.

Leeds, ſituated in a vale, which trade has rendered one of the moſt populous ſpots in England, is the principal of the clothing towns. The poet Dyer has given a ſtriking view of the proſpect it affords:

Wide around
Hillock and valley, farm and village, ſmile:
And ruddy roofs and chimney tops appear
Of buſy Leeds, up-wafting to the clouds
The incenſe of thankſgiving: all is joy;

And

And trade and bus'neſs guide the living ſcene;
Roll the full cars; adown the winding Aire
Load the ſlow ſailing barges; pile the pack
On the long tinkling train of ſlow-pac'd ſteeds.

FLEECE III.

Leeds is particularly the mart for the coloured and white broad cloths, of which vaſt quantities are ſold in its cloth-halls. That called *the mixed cloth hall* is a building of amazing extent, in which the cloth is placed on benches for ſale every market day; and the whole buſineſs is tranſacted within the ſpace of an hour, without the leaſt confuſion. The white cloth hall is a ſimilar building. The manufactures that ſupply theſe two halls extend about ten miles to the ſouth, fifteen to the ſouth-weſt, and eight to the north and weſt; the mixed cloths being moſtly made in the neighbourhood of the river Aire, and the white cloths in that of the Calder. Leeds has a manufactory of coarſe camlets, but declined; and a flouriſhing one of carpets, reſembling both the Wiltſhire and Scotch. Here is alſo carried on a large wholeſale trade in tobacco, for the cutting of which ſome mills

have been erected. There is a great pottery in, and another ſome miles from, the town, whence conſiderable quantities of earthern ware are exported to Scotland, Ireland, the Baltic and Mediterranean. Within three miles of the town are numerous collieries, which ſupply not only Leeds, but various other places.

Halifax, ſituated in a hilly country, of rather difficult acceſs, but full of people, is the great market for ſtuffs, ſuch as ſhalloons, calamancos, everlaſtings, &c. It has alſo a very large market-houſe, called *the new piece hall*, as well as various others for particular goods. The ſtuff manufactory is carried on fifteen or ſixteen miles to the weſt and north-weſt. To the ſouth-weſt as far as Blackſtonedge are the makers of kerſeys, ſome of whom directly export their own goods to Germany to a large amount.

Bradford deals in ſimilar commodities to thoſe of Halifax, made in its neighbourhood.

Wakefield, a handſome town on the Calder, trades in white cloths, and tammies.

mies. It is inhabited by ſeveral gentlemen of fortune, and opulent merchants.

Keighley has a manufactory of figured everlaſtings, ſhalloons, &c. and broad cloths. This town is the northern boundary of the makers of goods for Halifax market. The ſame goods are made on the banks of the Calder above Sowerby. The frugality and induſtry of theſe people enable them to underſell all their rivals in foreign markets.

Huddersfield, a town riſen up in this century, ſituated amidſt barren moors, is the mart for narrow cloths, called plains. This manufacture extends ten miles to the ſouth, where the coarſeſt cloths are made, which are exported to the Mediterranean. On the ſouth-weſt it extends to *Saddleworth*, where the fineſt narrow cloths are made, ſome of which are directly exported by the makers to Ireland. It is to be obſerved that the merchants of all theſe towns attend all the ſeveral markets, dealing in the manufactures of the other diſtricts, as well as of thoſe which they inhabit.

The Yorkſhire woollens, beſides home conſumption, are exported in large quantities to Holland, Germany, Ruſſia, Spain, and Italy. The manufacturers receive their wool from various parts; ſome from Spain, for the fineſt cloths: alſo from the ſouthern parts of England, Shropſhire, and Norfolk. The worſted ſtuffs are chiefly made of the long Lincolnſhire and Leiceſterſhire wool.

Near the banks of the Aire is *Pontefract*, or *Pomfret*, ſituated in a very rich ſoil, and noted for its nurſery-grounds and large plantations of liquorice. Its caſtle has been the ſcene of various tragical events in Engliſh hiſtory, particularly the murder of the unfortunate king Richard II. after his depoſition.

In the ſouthern extremity of the county ſtands *Sheffield*, a very populous town, long celebrated for its various hardware manufactories. Theſe are in an increaſing ſtate, and particularly conſiſt of cutlery wares, plated goods and buttons. By means of

the river Dun, which is navigable within two or three miles of the town, it receives iron from Hull, and conveys thither its manufactures for exportation to America and the Weſt Indies, as well as various parts of Europe. Its neighbourhood, as well as all this part of the county, abounds with coals. There are alſo at Sheffield lead-works and a ſilk-mill. The Sheffield manufactures extend ſeveral miles over the country. The land to the weſt of Sheffield is chiefly moors on which ſheep are fed. A breed peculiar to the country takes its name from *Peniſton*, the market town where they are principally ſold.

At *Rotheram*, on the Dun, is a large iron ſmelting work and foundry, alſo mills for the rolling of iron into ſheets, and for making plates for tinning. Theſe works have the advantage of water-conveyance to and from Hull. Coal and iron ore are procured near the town. Much lime is alſo burnt here; and a pottery is eſtabliſhed.

Harrowgate, near Knareſborough, is cele-

brated for its ſulphureous mineral water, uſed internally and externally in ſcorbutic diſorders.

Yorkſhire, from the ancient conſequence of its capital, and from its ſituation towards Scotland, has been diſtinguiſhed by many important tranſactions in the Engliſh hiſtory.

At North Allerton was fought, in 1137, the *battle of the ſtandard*, in which David king of Scotland, who had laid waſte the whole country, was defeated with great ſlaughter.

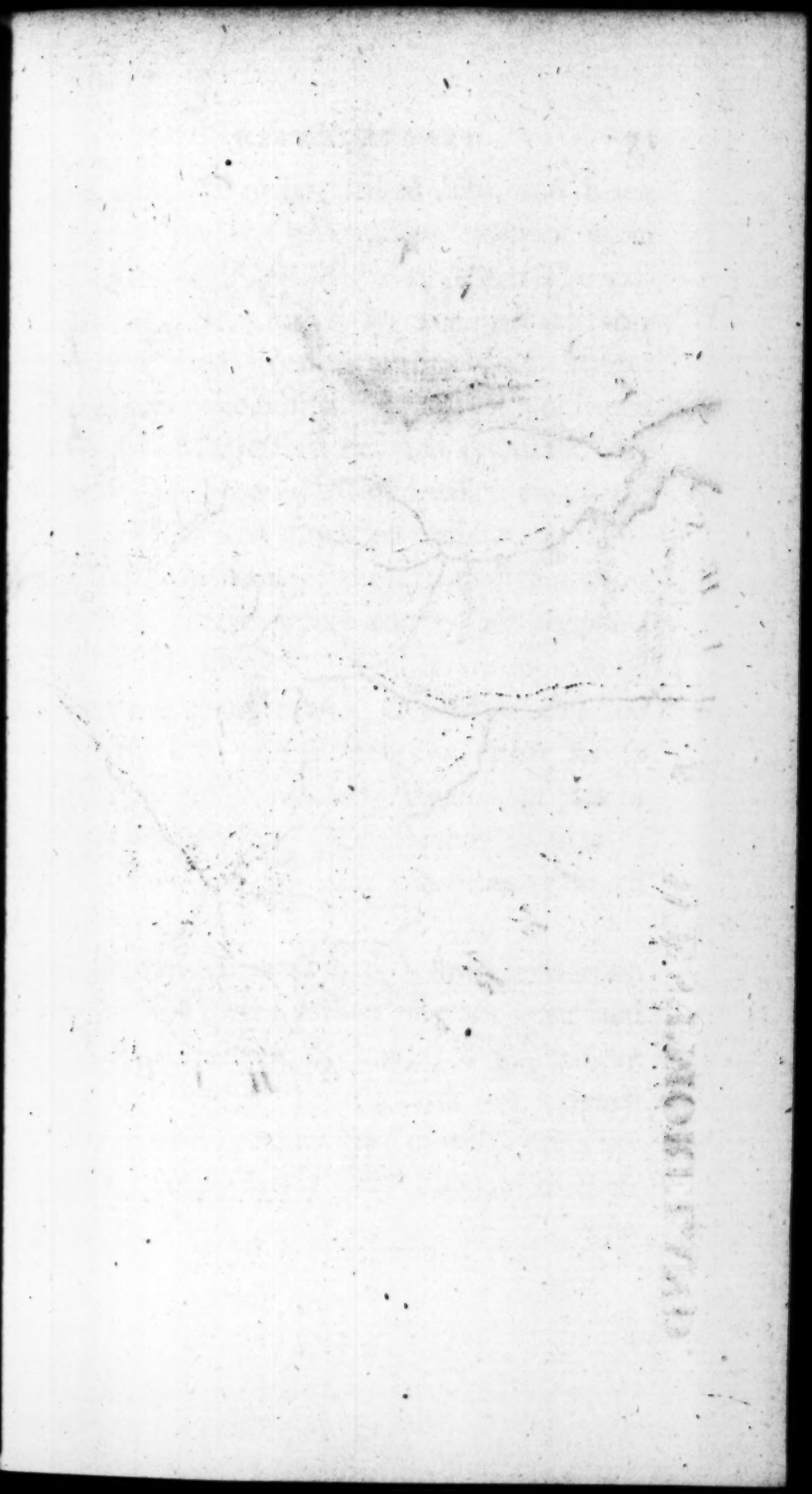
In 1460 Richard duke of York was defeated and ſlain by the Lancaſtrians near Wakefield: but, in the enſuing year, this defeat was revenged by his ſon, afterwards Edward IV. who, at Towton, near Shirburn, gained a complete victory, in which thirty-five thouſand men are ſaid to have fallen on both ſides. The whole number in the field was one hundred thouſand, the greateſt ever engaged in theſe deſtructive wars.

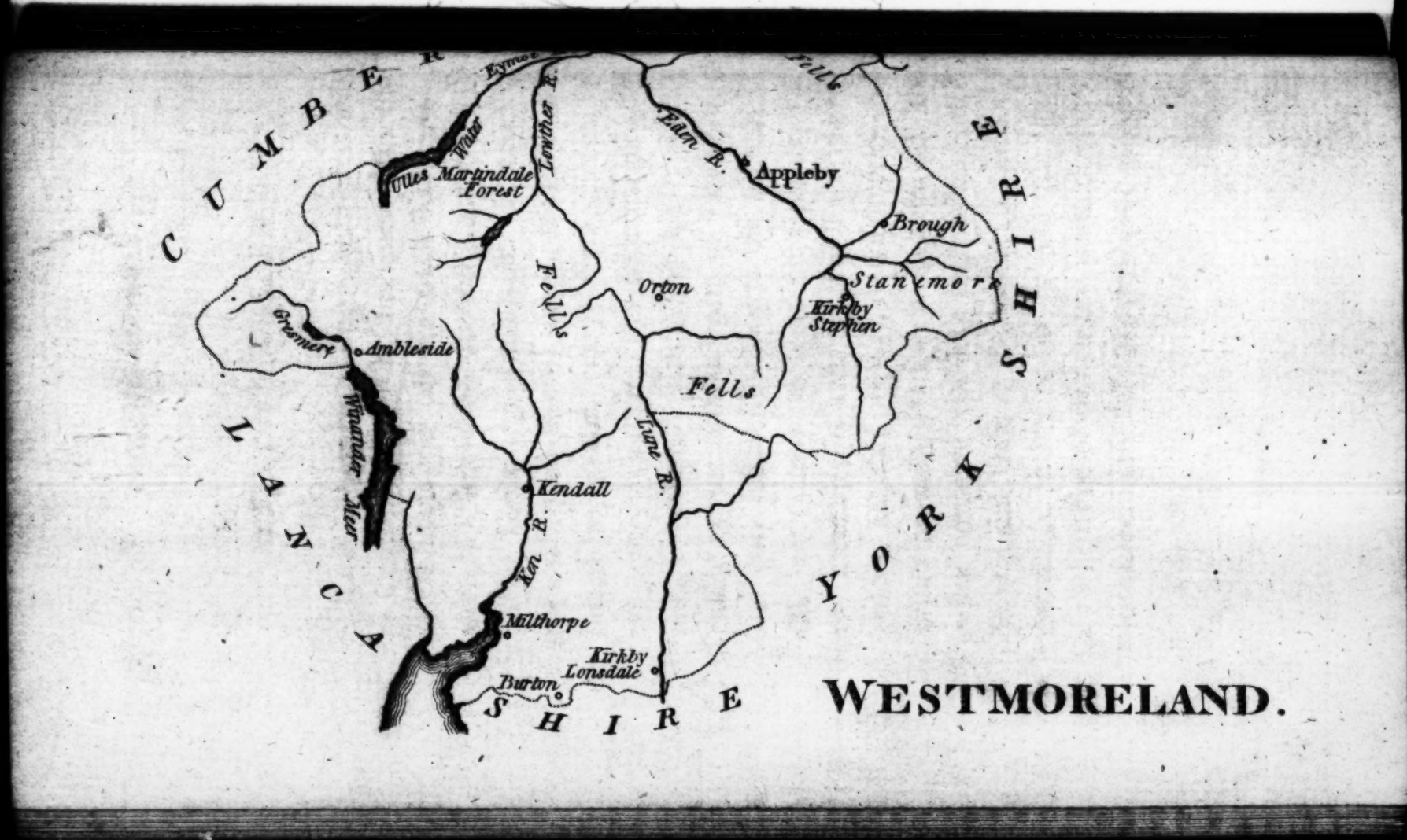
In the year 1644 the parliament army gave a ſignal defeat to the royaliſts at Marſton-moor, near York, which was the commencement of the king's ill ſucceſs, and of Cromwell's great influence and reputation.

WESTMORELAND.

THIS county is encloſed between thoſe of Cumberland, York, and Lancaſter; the firſt bounding it on the north and north-weſt; the ſecond on the eaſt; and the laſt on the ſouth and ſouth-weſt. It has the natural boundaries of lakes, ſtreams, and mountains, almoſt every where except to the ſouth, where it ſinks undiſtinguiſhably into Lancaſhire. From the ſea it is excluded by the detached part of Lancaſhire; and only juſt touches upon the bottom of that wide ſandy waſh which ſeparates the two parts of that county. Its ſhape is irregularly angular, ſomewhat reſembling that of a vine-leaf. Its ſize is leſs than of the other northern counties; yet, in its greateſt length and breadth, it meaſures about forty miles.

The name of this county is deſcriptive of its nature. It is the *weſt moor-land*; a region of




CUMBERLAND
Eymot
Ullswater
Ullus Martindale Forest
Lowther R.
Eden R.
Appleby
Brough
Stanemore
Kirkby Stephen
Orton
Fells
Fells
Grasmere
Ambleside
Windermere
Mere
LANCASHIRE
Kendall
Kent R.
Lune R.
Milthorpe
Kirkby Lonsdale
Burton
YORKSHIRE
WESTMORELAND.

of lofty mountains, naked hills, and black barren moors, which here, as well as in Cumberland, are alſo called *fells*. The vallies in which the rivers run are tolerably fertile; and in the north-eaſtern quarter there is a conſiderable tract of cultivated plain. The reſt of the county affords only narrow dells and glens of fertility amidſt the dreary hills and extended waſtes. So large is the proportion of theſe tracts, that three fourths of the whole county are ſuppoſed to lie uncultivated. Neither are its mineral treaſures conſiderable. It wants coals; and the metallic ores it contains either lie ſo deep, or are ſo remotely ſituated, as not to be worth working. It abounds in ſlate of the fineſt quality, large quantities of which are exported.

Of the cultivated land, a ſmall proportion is devoted to the raiſing of corn (oats and barley); the reſt is employed for paſture and hay. Many Scotch cattle are fattened here, and a great number of milch cows are kept, which ſupply the London markets

with a large quantity of excellent butter in firkins. The mountains feed great flocks of ſheep, and many black cattle. Numbers of geeſe are bred on the moors, and afford an article of exportation. The Weſtmoreland hams are in conſiderable eſteem, and form one of the exports of the county.

The moſt extenſive lake in England, *Winander Mere*, lies between this county and Lancaſhire. It is remarkable, as well for its beauty, as for the fine char it produces; a fiſh only found in this iſland in ſome lakes of theſe parts, and in a few Welſh lakes. North of this are lofty mountains in which eagles breed, communicating with thoſe in Cumberland; then ſucceeds the large lake of *Ulles-water*, between the two counties; to the ſouth of which lie other lakes, in the foreſt of *Martindale*, where the red deer are ſtill found in a wild ſtate. Out of Ulles-lake flows the *Eymot*, which, in its courſe to join the Eden, forms the boundary of the county for ſome ſpace. It receives the *Lowther*, which riſes out of the lake called *Broad-water*.

The

The *Eden*, already mentioned as the principal river of Cumberland, has its ſource in the wildeſt part of this county, on the borders of Yorkſhire; and in its courſe waſhes the town of Appleby. Other ſtreams join it from the eaſtern angle of Weſtmoreland, which chiefly conſiſts of the "wintry waſte" of *Stanemore*, a region of moſt ſavage aſpect, which has been deſcribed both in poety and romance.

Not far from the ſource of the Eden is that of the *Lon* or *Lune*, a beautiful river, flowing ſouthwards along the borders of Weſtmoreland and Yorkſhire, by Kirkby Lonſdale, below which it leaves this county for Lancaſhire.

Another ſtream, whoſe whole courſe is in this county, is the *Kan*, or *Ken*, which flows by Kendal, and diſcharges itſelf into the ſandy waſh of Lancaſhire. It has a cataract near its mouth, which renders it incapable of navigation; ſo that the village of *Milthrop*, ſituated on a little creek near the Ken's mouth, is the only port of this county;

county; nor is it capable of receiving more than very ſmall veſſels. From hence are exported the fine Weſtmoreland ſlates to Liverpool, London, Hull, and other places.

The county town of *Appleby* is an inconſiderable place, though ſituated in the moſt fertile part of Weſtmoreland. It has the principal corn market of theſe parts.

The only commercial town of the county is *Kendal*, long noted for its woollen manufactories, which it ſtill ſupports with vigour, notwithſtanding its diſadvantage of poſſeſſing no water-carriage; ſuch are the effects of active induſtry and frugality. Large quantities of wool from Leiceſterſhire and Durham are here wrought into woven and knit ſtockings, which are chiefly ſent to London in waggons. The coarſe wool of Weſtmoreland is wrought into a thick ſtuff called *cottons*, which are principally ſent to Glaſgow, and exported for the clothing of the negroes, or uſed for

ſailors'

ſailors' jackets. There is alſo a manufactory of linſey-woolſey, for home conſumption; the wool for which comes from the neighbouring counties and Scotland. The tanning buſineſs alſo employs many hands here.

LANCASHIRE.

LANCASHIRE.

THIS county, bounded on the north by Weſtmoreland and a part of Cumberland, on the eaſt by Yorkſhire, on the weſt by the Iriſh ſea, and on the ſouth by Cheſhire, is irregularly ſhaped, and remarkable for having a conſiderable diſtrict entirely detached from the reſt, acroſs an arm of the ſea. Its greateſt length (excluſive of this detached part) is about ſixty miles; its greateſt breadth, which is at its ſouthern end, about forty-five.

In this extent is compriſed a variety of ſoil and face of country; but, in general, this county is one of thoſe which are the leaſt favoured by nature; a proof of which is the ancient thinneſs of its population, ſhewn by the very ſmall number of pariſhes into which it was divided.

The diſjoined part of Lancaſhire, called the hundred of *Furneſs*, partakes of the romantic

LANCASHIRE.

WESTMORELAND
YORKSHIRE
CHESHIRE
Hawkshead
Coniston Mer
Windermere
Winster R.
Ken R.
Ulverston
Cartmel
Dalton
Morecambe Bay
Lon R.
Lancaster
Garstang
Ure R.
Poulton
Ribble R.
Clitheroe
Colne
Kirkham
Preston
Ribble
Burnley
Blackburn
Douglas R.
Chorley
Rochdale
Canal
Bolton
Bury
Ormskirk
Wigan
Irwell R.
Manchester
Prescot
Canal
Liverpool
Warrington
Mersey R.

mantic character of the adjacent counties. It is a wild and rugged region, ſtored with quantities of iron-ore and ſlate, and covered with a growth of underwood, which is cut down in ſucceſſion, and made into charcoal for the uſe of the iron furnaces. A conſiderable lake, *Coniſton-meer*, lies in this tract, which yields char as well as the neighbouring Winander. Near the ſea, and in the vicinity of the ancient abbey of Furneſs, the land is tolerably fertile. The long and narrow *iſle of Walney* forms its bulwark againſt the waves of the Iriſh ſea. The port of this diſtrict is at *Ulverſtone*, ſituated on a ſhallow arm of the ſea, into which the *Leven* and other ſtreams enter. This arm, as well as the broad eſtuary ſeparating Furneſs from the reſt of Lancaſhire, is continually croſſed by horſes and carriages at low water, though not without ſome danger.

The main part of the county may be divided into two unequal portions, the ſmaller lying between the borders of Weſtmoreland

and

and the Ribble, the larger between the Ribble and the Merſey.

In the firſt of theſe, the banks of the *Lon* or *Lune*, which comes down from Weſtmoreland, and enters the ſea below Lancaſter, are beautiful and romantic. The country about *Garſtang* breeds a fine race of horned cattle, reckoned as perfect in their form as any in England. The tract between the road from hence to Preſton, and the ſea, called the *Fild* or *Field*, is flat, and produces large quantities of oats. Through this runs the river *Wier*, or *Wyre*, the mouth of which is below Poulton. Near that town is *Blackpool*, a village on the coaſt much reſorted to for ſea bathing. The eaſtern part of this portion, compriſing the old foreſts of Wierſdale and Bowland, is mountainous and generally barren.

The *Ribble*, entering the county from Yorkſhire at Clithero, and, after paſſing by Preſton, diſcharging itſelf by a broad ſandy outlet, flows through a vale of great fertility and beauty. Of the large tract between this

this river and the Merſey all the ſouthern part is flat, quite from the ſea to the commencement of the ridge called *Black-ſtone-edge*, ſeparating this county from Yorkſhire. Much of this is a fertile country, though occaſionally deformed by the black turf bogs, here called moſſes; ſome of which are of large extent, and abſolutely impaſſable in wet ſeaſons. In the north-eaſtern part of this diviſion are ſome lofty hills, among which the moſt noted is *Pendle-hill*. The remaining part is varied with hill, dale, and moor.

The boundary river, the *Merſey*, after receiving above Stockport the *Tame*, (which takes up the boundary where the Merſey leaves it) and ſomewhat lower, the *Irwell*, bringing down a conflux of other ſtreams from Manchester, winds through a tract of rich meadows; and, after paſſing Warrington, ſoon dilates into a wide ſandy eſtuary, which, contracting again, reaches the ſea below Liverpool.

Such is the general face of this county, the

the natural products of which are of little conſequence, except the coal and turf, with which its ſouthern parts abound. For a corn country it is little adapted, not only in many parts from the nature of its ſoil, but from the remarkable wetneſs of its climate, occaſioned by the frequent clouds which, in their paſſage from the weſtern ſea, are here firſt ſtopped by the inland ridge of hills. The grain principally cultivated is oats; but the whole growth of corn is ſuppoſed not to exceed a three month's conſumption of the inhabitants. The land is, however, found to be ſingularly fitted to the growth of potatoes, that uſeful root, which forms the beſt ſubſtitute for corn, and yields a greater increaſe than almoſt any other nutritious vegetable. A conſiderable quantity of cheeſe, and ſome of excellent quality, is made in the county.

All the rivers of Lancaſhire afford ſalmon; and the Merſey is viſited by annual ſhoals of ſmelts, here called ſparlings, of remarkable ſize and flavour.

As

As a commercial and manufacturing county, this has diſtinguiſhed itſelf, eſpecially of late years, beyond any other in the kingdom. Two larger and more flouriſhing towns than any other ſingle county poſſeſſes, Mancheſter and Liverpool, are mutual aids to each other in the acquiſition of wealth.

Mancheſter, which has been long noted for various branches of the linen, ſilk, and cotton manufactory, is now principally conſpicuous as the centre of the cotton trade, an immenſe buſineſs, extending in ſome or other of its operations from Furneſs (where great cotton-ſpinning mills have been eſtabliſhed) to Derby, north and ſouth; and, from Halifax to Liverpool, eaſt and weſt. The labours of a very populous neighbourhood are collected at Mancheſter; whence they are ſent to London, Liverpool, Hull, and other places. Theſe conſiſt of a great variety of cotton and mixed goods, fitted for all ſorts of markets, both at home or abroad, ſpreading over great part of Europe,

America, and the coaſt of Guinea, and bringing back vaſt profits to this country. The raw material is principally imported at Liverpool and Lancaſter; but is occaſionally brought from London and other ports. The manufacture of tapes and other ſmall wares, of ſilk goods and of hats, is alſo carried on at Mancheſter; from which various ſources of wealth it has attained greater opulence than almoſt any of the trading towns in England. Its buildings, eſpecially the more modern ones, are on a proportional ſcale of ſize and elegance.

Liverpool, ſituated at the great inlet of this part of the county, by means of the Merſey and its communicating rivers and canals, has grown in proportion to the increaſe of interior wealth and population, ſo as at length to have become, with reſpect to extent of commerce, undoubtedly the ſecond port in the kingdom. Its harbour is artificial, conſiſting of large docks formed in the town, and communicating with the river Merſey. The entrance of this river

is

is dangerous, though every direction is given to render it more ſecure. The trade of Liverpool is very general; but it is to be lamented that one of its principal branches is the inhuman traffic for ſlaves on the coaſt of Guinea, to ſupply the Weſt India iſlands, from whence in return great quantities of ſugar, cotton, and other products are imported. The American, Baltic, and Portugal branches are alſo conſiderable; and the communication with Ireland is very extenſive. Several ſhips are alſo ſent to the Greenland fiſhery; and there is a great coaſting trade for corn and other commodities. Liverpool communicates, by means of the Merſey, with Warrington, and with a canal called the Sankey canal, running to ſome coal-pits and other works a little way up the country; by means of the Irwell, and alſo the Duke of Bridgewater's canal, with Mancheſter; by means of the Weever, with the Cheſhire ſalt works; and, by means of the Duke of Bridgewater's canal, with the Staffordſhire and all its communi-

cations. A vaſt deſign is alſo in part executed, of cutting a canal from Liverpool quite to Leeds in Yorkſhire.

Moſt of the other towns in this county are diſtinguiſhed by ſome particular branch of trade.

Lancaſter, the capital, is a well-built and populous town, having a port for veſſels of moderate burthen, and carrying on a conſiderable foreign trade, eſpecially to the Weſt Indies. It is noted for the making of mahogany cabinet ware.

Preſton, which participates only in a ſmall degree in the manufactures of the county, is a handſome place, inhabited by many families of gentry, invited by its beautiful ſituation. It has been the ſcene of various actions in our civil wars, particularly in the rebellion of 1715.

Kirkham, in the *Fild*, has a conſiderable manufactory of ſail-cloth.

At *Wigan*, the ſtrongeſt checks are made, and other articles of linen and cotton manufacture. That moſt elegant ſpecies of coal,

called Cannel, is found in plenty and great perfection in its neighbourhood. Its ſmall ſtream, the *Douglas*, is made navigable to the Ribble; and it is joined by a canal from Liverpool.

Warrington, the great thoroughfare to the north-weſt, has a large manufactory of ſail-cloth, which contributes much to the ſupply of the royal navy; and alſo of ſacking. Glaſs-houſes and copper-ſmelting works are likewiſe eſtabliſhed here (the latter at preſent diſuſed); and many hands are employed in pin-making. The cotton trade is now gaining ground in this place.

Bolton, ſituated amidſt dreary moors, has enriched itſelf by the fuſtian and counterpane branches of manufacture. Dimities and muſlins are alſo made here in conſiderable quantities.

Blackburn, to the north of it, ſtill more remote from the centre of buſineſs, carries on a vaſt trade in calicoes for printing.

About *Burnley* ſhalloons are made for the Halifax market.

Rochdale, at the foot of the Yorkſhire hills, has a flouriſhing manufactory of bays, ſerges, and other woollen goods.

Part of theſe are exported or ſent to London by the Yorkſhire merchants; but conſiderable quantities are ſent directly to Portugal by the Rochdale merchants. This town has got moſt of the trade from Bocking and other places in Eſſex. Its manufactures extend eight or ten miles north of the town.

Oldham, though no market town, is become extremely populous. Being ſituated among the hills that produce the beſt coals, a large manufactory of hats has been eſtabliſhed there. It alſo ſhares in the Mancheſter manufactures.

Beſides all theſe branches there are in various parts, conſiderable works in iron and ſteel, particularly of the beſt files in England; nails, locks, and hinges; watch-tools and movements. Theſe are favoured by the uncommon plenty of coals of almoſt every kind in this county. This circumſtance

ſtance too has occaſioned the eſtabliſhment, near *Preſcot*, of a patent manufactory of caſt plate glaſs, after the French manner; the only one in the kingdom.

The Duke of Bridgewater began his magnificent plans by the canal from his coal-pits to Mancheſter. Its head is at *Worſley*, where tunnels are driven a vaſt way under ground, beneath the bottom of the coal-pits, from which boats are loaded. This canal is carried by a noble aqueduct acroſs the navigable river Irwell, and afterwards joins the principal one in Cheſhire.

A number of other canals have lately been planned, and are at this time carrying on, by which a mutual communication will be eſtabliſhed between Mancheſter and all the neighbouring manufacturing towns, and alſo with Yorkſhire.

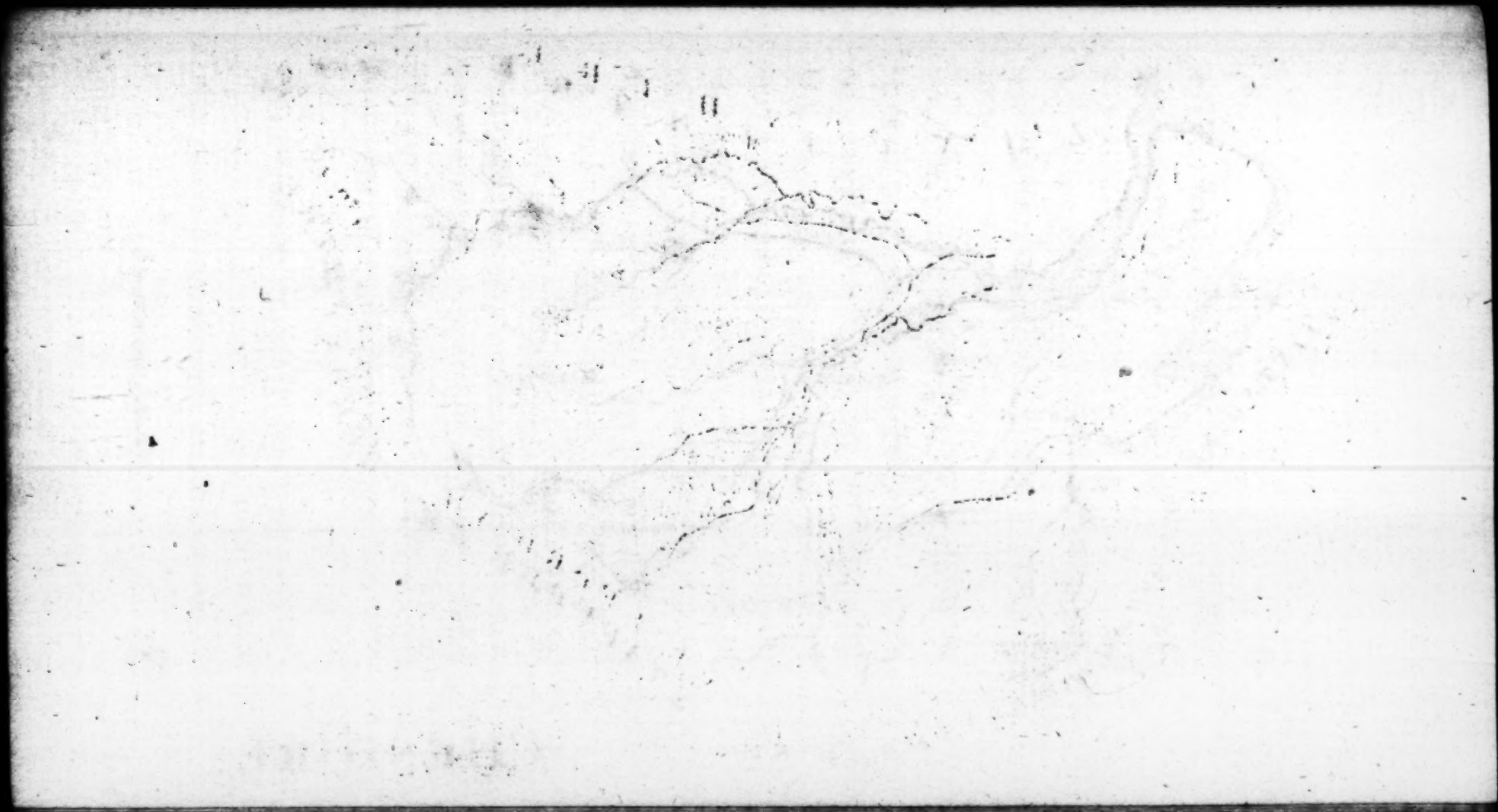
CHESHIRE.

THIS county, diſtinguiſhed in its figure by the two horns which project to the eaſt and weſt of its northern ſide, is bounded on the north by the rivers Merſey and Tame, which ſeparate it from Lancaſhire, and by a ſmall point of Yorkſhire; on the eaſt, by the counties of Derby and Stafford, the limits of which are marked for the moſt part by hills and ſtreams; on the ſouth by Shropſhire and a detached part of Flintſhire; and on the weſt by Denbighſhire, Flintſhire, and the eſtuary of the Dee. Its length is thirty miles; its extreme breadth, from horn to horn, almoſt ſixty; but acroſs its middle part not forty.

Cheſhire is in general a flat country. Its moſt hilly part is towards the eaſtern border, where are ſome conſiderable eminences, forming a chain with the Derbyſhire and Staffordſhire hills. An interrupted ridge of high

LANCASHIRE
YORK SH.
Mersey R.
Tame R.
Wirral
Dee R.
Park gate
Mersey R.
Canal
Canal
Weaver R.
Frodsham
Canal
Altringham
Stockport
Bollin R.
Knutsford
Macclesfield
Goyt R.
Delamere Forest
Northwich
Weaver R.
Dane R.
Middlewich
Congleton
Sandbach
Canal
Canal
Canal
Torperley
Beeston Cast
Namptwich
Malpas
Dee R.
Dee R.
New Channel
CHESTER
FLINTSHIRE
DENBIGH SH.
FLINTS.
SHROP SH.
STAFFORD SH.
DERBYSHIRE

CHESHIRE.



high ground alſo croſſes it from north to ſouth on the weſtern ſide, beginning with a bold promontory, overlooking the Merſey near Frodſham; then croſſing that large tract of heath called *Delamere-foreſt*; appearing again in the inſulated rock of *Beeſton*, crowned with the ruins of its ſtrong caſtle; and ceaſing in the wooded *Braxton* hills near Malpas. The reſt of the county is nearly level: its ſoil in many parts light and ſandy, with much red grit rock, on which almoſt all the towns and villages are built; in others ſtiff clay; with an intermixture of uncultivated moſs and heath. Yet the proportion of waſte ground to the cultivated on the whole is not eſtimated at above one eleventh. Several ſmall lakes, called *meres*, are interſperſed, particularly in the northern parts.

The rivers in this county are, firſt, the *Dee*, a ſtream held in great veneration by our Britiſh anceſtors. It has its riſe, and the principal part of its courſe, in Wales, and only viſits the weſtern border of Cheſhire,

to

to which it ſerves for ſome ſpace as a boundary; then croſſing over to the city of Cheſter, it flows from thence to the ſea, making a broad ſandy eſtuary, which ſeparates this county from Flintſhire. By embankments here made, much land has been gained from the tide, and a narrow, but deeper channel, fitter for navigation, has been formed from Cheſter half way to the ſea. The Dee is navigable from near Elleſmere, in Shropſhire, to Cheſter; but, at this city, the continuity of the navigation is broken by a ledge of rocks running acroſs the bed of the river, and cauſing a ſort of caſcade.

The *Weever* riſes in the northern part of Shropſhire, and, after running acroſs the middle of Cheſhire, and receiving the *Dane* from the eaſt, empties into the eſtuary of the Merſey. It is navigable to Winsford, ſome miles above Northwich.

The *Merſey* itſelf belongs more to this county than to Lancaſhire, ſince it riſes juſt within Yorkſhire; and, coaſting firſt along

along the ſouthern ſide of the eaſtern horn of Cheſhire, then croſſes it, and reaches Lancaſhire only above Stockport.

Two commodities render Cheſhire particularly famous, its ſalt and its cheeſe.

The ſalt-works are at the three towns called *Wyches*, viz. *Namptwich*, *Middlewich*, and *Northwich*, and at *Winsford* and ſome other places. At moſt of theſe brine is pumped up from ſprings which contain the ſalt diſſolved in the bowels of the earth, and which is procured from the brine again by boiling. At *Northwich* vaſt pits of ſolid ſalt rock have been dug to a great depth, from which immenſe quantities are raiſed, partly to be purified on the ſpot by re-diſſolving and boiling, and partly to be exported in its crude ſtate. Moſt of the latter goes to Liverpool by means of the river Weever; and the plenty and cheapneſs of this commodity has been a principal cauſe of the great foreign commerce of that port. The clear annual duty received by government for Cheſhire ſalt amounts to 200,000*l.*

The

The cheeſe of this county is noted for its mellowneſs and rich flavour; and great quantities of it are conſumed in various parts of England and Scotland, as well as exported abroad. About three fourths of the land in Cheſhire is ſuppoſed to be paſtured or mown; and the graſs, except what is eaten by horſes, is chiefly conſumed by milking cows, as few cattle are fattened here. The farmers are leſs attentive to the beauty of their cows than in many other parts, the milk being the great object: and they keep them to a great age. More calves are fed in Cheſhire, during the months of March and April, than in any other part of England; but the veal is killed very young, as the milk cannot be long ſpared. The dairies are ſcattered over the whole county; but the principal are about Namptwich, and the tract between the Dane and Weever, where the ſoil is moſt clayey. The cheeſe is chiefly ſold to London; but a good deal goes to Liverpool and the counties to the north.

The

The chief manures of this county are marl and lime; the latter moſtly gotten on the eaſtern ſide. Coals are in conſiderable plenty in the north-eaſt; and ſome are alſo dug in the hundred of *Wirral*, or that peninſula which lies between the Dee and Merſey, whence they are ſent to Cheſter. The midſt of the county is principally ſupplied from Lancaſhire. Stone quarries are frequent in the hilly parts. There are few conſiderable woods in Cheſhire, but timber abounds in the hedge rows, and eſpecially oak, the bark of which is a valuable object, on account of the many tanneries eſtabliſhed in the county.

The great canal of the duke of Bridgewater has its principal courſe in Cheſhire, entering the county from Mancheſter by croſſing the Merſey, and then running parallel to it, till it falls into that river at Runcorn. With this the grand canal communicates which joins the Trent and Merſey, and is called the Staffordſhire. This laſt canal croſſes Cheſhire, paſſing by Northwich

and

and Middlewich. There is beſides, another canal from Cheſter to Namptwich, intended to promote the commerce of that city by giving it the advantage of an exportation of ſalt; but it has failed in its effect.

The capital of the county, *Cheſter*, is an ancient city of moderate ſize. Its main ſtreets have a peculiarity of conſtruction not found in any other town. They are hollowed out in the rock to the depth of one ſtory beneath the level of the ground on each ſide; and the houſes have a ſort of covered portico running on from houſe to houſe and ſtreet to ſtreet, level with the ground at the back, but one ſtory above the ſtreet. They are called *rows*, and afford a ſheltered walk for the foot paſſengers. Beneath them are ſhops and warehouſes on the level of the ſtreet. Cheſter has a ſmall ſhare of foreign commerce by means of its port; and its two annual fairs are ſome of the moſt noted in England, eſpecially for the ſale of Iriſh linen. It has a manufactory of gloves; and a conſiderable traffic of

ſhop-goods into North Wales. It is, however, chiefly diſtinguiſhed as the reſidence of many families of gentry from the county, and from Wales.

Of the other towns, *Stockport* is now the moſt flouriſhing, on account of its participating largely in the cotton manufactures. Theſe have cauſed its former buſineſs of making checks, hats, and buttons, to decline. It has a great market for cheeſe and oatmeal.

Macclesfield and *Congleton* have large mills for the winding of ſilk. At the latter ribbons are made for the Coventry manufacturers: at the former is a conſiderable manufactory of mohair buttons.

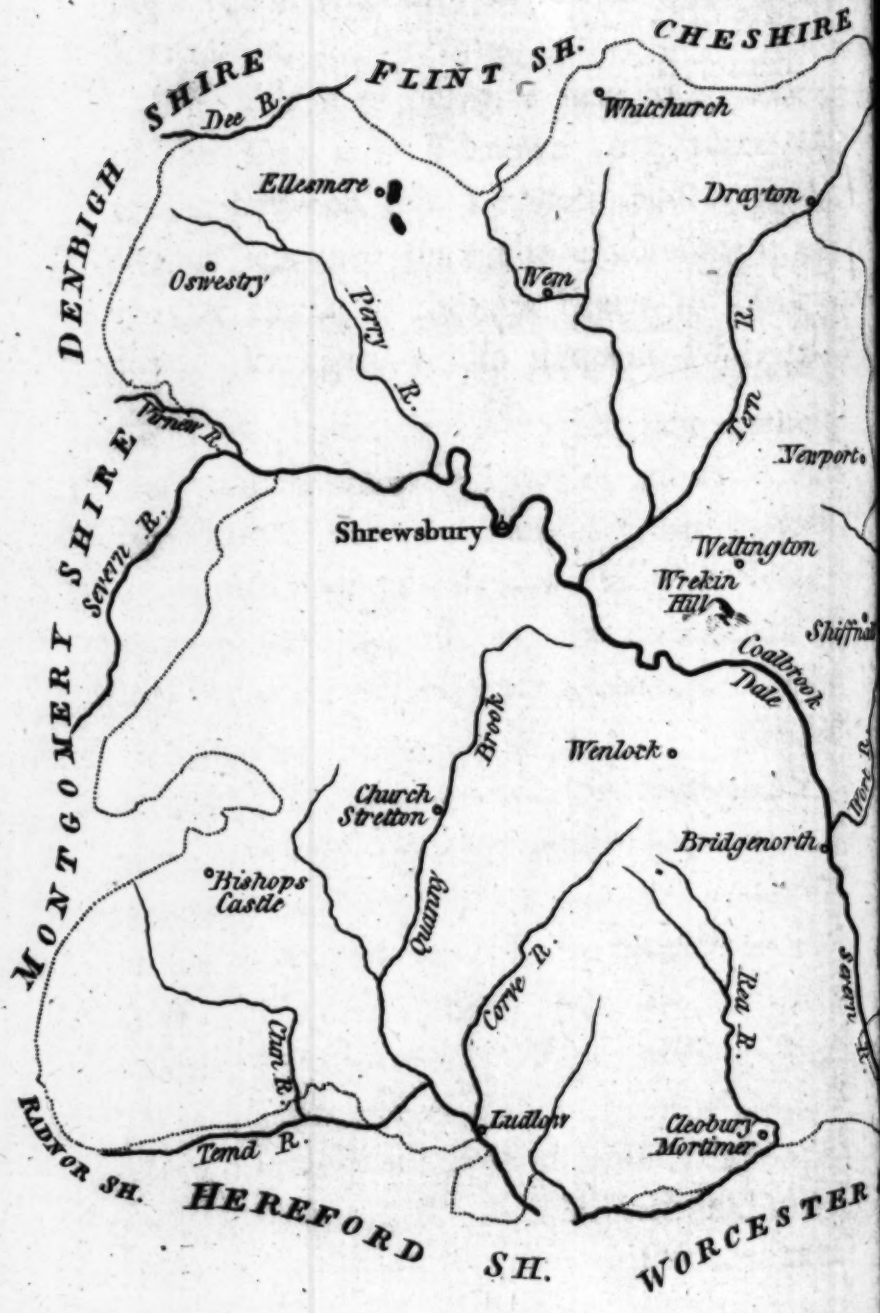
Knutsford was formerly diſtinguiſhed for a manufactory of thread, but it is almoſt extinct.

In all the above-mentioned towns the ancient branches of buſineſs are declining, and newly-erected cotton-works are riſing upon their ruins. This flouriſhing branch of manufacture ſeems now extending

ing through Cheſhire, as it has done over Lancaſhire.

The village of *Parkgate* near the mouth of the Dee is well known as a place of tranſit between this kingdom and Ireland, though leſs uſed ſince the eſtabliſhment of regular carriages through Wales to Holyhead. Parkgate is alſo frequented for ſea-bathing.

SHROPSHIRE.


DENBIGH SHIRE
FLINT SH.
CHESHIRE
Dee R.
Whitchurch
Ellesmere
Drayton
Oswestry
Wem
Perry R.
Tern R.
Vernew R.
Severn R.
MONTGOMERY SHIRE
Shrewsbury
Newport
Weltington
Wrekin Hill
Coalbrook Dale
Wenlock
Church Stretton
Brook
Bridgenorth
Bishops Castle
Quarney
Corve R.
Rea R.
Severn R.
Clun R.
Ludlow
Cleobury Mortimer
Teme R.
RADNOR SH.
HEREFORD SH.
WORCESTER

SHROPSHIRE.

SHROPSHIRE, or the county of Salop, is bounded on the north by Cheſhire, the detached part of Flintſhire, and a corner of Denbighſhire; on the weſt by the latter county, and thoſe of Montgomery and Radnor; on the ſouth by Herefordſhire and Worceſterſhire; and on the eaſt by Staffordſhire. It is of a roundiſh figure, with many indentations, and projections. Its greateſt length is about fifty miles, and breadth forty.

Shropſhire is divided into two nearly equal parts by the Severn. Of theſe the ſouthern portion, which was anciently a part of Wales, partakes of the mountainous character of that region; eſpecially the ſouth-weſtern angle. In the northern portion there is a conſiderable part flat, though it is not without high hills, particularly on the borders of Wales. The noted moun-

tain, the *Wrekin*, is in this diviſion, not far from the centre of the county.

The *Severn* enters Shropſhire juſt at its conflux with the *Vyrnyw*, or *Wirnew*, on the weſtern ſide, and takes its courſe to the ſouth-eaſt, winding beautifully through deep romantic vallies, finely wooded. On the northern ſide it receives the *Tern*, a conſiderable ſtream, augmented by the *Rodon*; on the ſouthern it is fed by ſeveral ſmall rills. The Severn is navigable in its whole courſe through this county, thereby affording a great convenience for the tranſport of its commodities. Its banks, which are often overflowed, produce large crops of hay. The rivers of the ſouthern part chiefly fall into the *Tend*, which joins the Severn in Worceſterſhire.

Shropſhire has a great variety of ſoil, but in general is well cultivated, producing large quantities of grain of all ſorts, much of which is ſent down the Severn for exportation. Its level parts feed many cattle; and much of the cheeſe ſold under the name of Cheſhire

Cheſhire is made in this county. The ſheep of its hilly tracts afford a fine wool, which is employed in the manufactories of the weſt, there being none of any conſequence in Shropſhire. The neighbourhood of the Wrekin and Bridgenorth, and that of Clunn, in the ſouth-weſtern corner, are reckoned to yield wool equal to that of Lemſter. Some hops are grown upon the Herefordſhire border.

The mineral products of this county are conſiderable, conſiſting of lead, iron, limeſtone, freeſtone, pipe clay, and coals. The iron works of *Colebrook-Dale* on the banks of the Severn are ſuppoſed to be the moſt conſiderable in England. The neighbouring hills ſupply both ore and coal, as well as limeſtone, in great quantities; and every part of the proceſs, from digging the ore to the laſt finiſh of the manufacture, is performed on the ſpot. "Colebrook-Dale "(ſays Mr. Young) is a winding glen, be- "tween two immenſe hills, which break "into various forms, being all thickly co-

"vered and forming moſt beautiful ſheets "of hanging woods. The noiſe of the "forges, mills, &c. with all their vaſt ma-"chinery; the flames burſting from the "furnaces, with the burning of coal, and "the ſmoke of the lime-kilns; are altoge-"ther horribly ſublime." A bridge entirely made of caſt iron, which has been lately thrown over the Severn, gives theſe ſcenes a ſtill nearer reſemblance to the ideas in romance. There is alſo in the Dale a remarkable ſpring of foſſil tar, or petroleum, which has yielded a vaſt quantity of that ſubſtance, but it is now much diminiſhed. A work for obtaining a ſimilar kind of tar from the condenſed ſmoke of pit coal has been erected in the Dale.

The capital of this county, *Shrewſbury*, beautifully ſituated in a peninſula formed by the Severn, is a very reſpectable ancient town, inhabited by many families of gentry, and carrying on no inconſiderable commerce. It is the chief mart for a coarſe kind of woollen cloth made in Montgomeryſhire,

meryſhire, called Welſh-webs, which are bought up in the country and dreſſed here, whence they are ſent for exportation principally to America and Flanders. Much of the Welſh flannel is alſo bought at Welſhpool by the drapers of this place. Shrewſbury is famous for the making of excellent brawn, which is ſent to various parts of the kingdom. A newly planned canal from hence to the Dee and Merſey, may be expected to increaſe its traffic.

Cloſe to this town was fought in 1400 the bloody battle between king Henry IV. and the malcontents under Henry Percy, ſurnamed Hotſpur, in which the latter was defeated and ſlain.

Bridgenorth is a pretty conſiderable town, with one of the firſt fairs in the kingdom for hops, clover ſeed, and Welſh flannels.

At *Oſweſtry*, a market town in the northweſt, conſiderable quantities of the Welſh woollens are ſold.

Elleſmere is ſituated upon an eminence, commanding a remarkably fine view. It

takes its name from a large mere; and there are others in its neighbourhood.

Ludlow, on the border of Herefordshire, is celebrated for the remains of its magnificent castle. The wooded and romantic scenery around it suggested the descriptions in Milton's incomparable *Masque of Comus*, which was first represented in it, when inhabited by the Bridgewater family.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE county of Hereford has to the north Shropſhire; to the weſt the counties of Radnor and Brecknock, the latter ſeparated by the Hatterel hills, or Black Mountain; to the ſouth Monmouthſhire and Glouceſterſhire, the former ſeparated by the river Munno, the latter, in part, by the Wye; and to the eaſt Worceſterſhire. It is of a circular form, but its circumference is made irregular by many windings and indentations. Its central length and breadth are each about thirty-ſix miles.

Herefordſhire is one of the counties which moſt happily unite the rich and fertile with the pictureſque and romantic. The poet Dyer's deſcription of *Siluria*, of which it formed a conſiderable part, paints it in beautiful colours.

Pleaſant Siluria, land of various views,
Hills, rivers, woods, and lawns, and purple groves
Pomaceous, mingled with the curling growth
Of tendril hops, that flaunt upon their poles.

FLEECE.

The fertility and pleaſantneſs of this county are greatly owing to the fine rivers by which it is watered. Of theſe the principal is the *Wye*, which, entering on the weſtern ſide, almoſt croſſes the county meandering to the ſouth-eaſt, when, turning directly ſouth, it reaches the boundary of Glouceſterſhire, and then bending weſtward arrives at the borders of Monmouthſhire. The romantic beauties of the Wye, which flows in a deep bed between lofty rocks clothed with hanging woods, and here and there crowned with ruined caſtles, have employed the deſcriptive powers of the pen and pencil, and frequently engage the curioſity of travellers.

The *Lug*, a conſiderable ſtream, riſing in the north-weſt, on the confines of Radnor, after flowing acroſs great part of this county, and receiving many rivulets from the north and eaſt, falls into the Wye a little below Hereford, and compels it to take its ſouthward direction.

The *Mumo* or *Mynnow*, already mentioned

tioned as forming the limit on the Monmouthſhire border, ſprings from the Hanterel-hills; and, after receiving the *Doyer*, flowing out of a valley, called from its ſuperior fertility the *Golden vale*, goes on to join the Wye at the town of Monmouth.

The northern extremity of the county is juſt croſſed in two places by the *Teme*.

Two products render Herefordſhire particularly famous—its cyder and its wool.

The apples producing the cyder grow in greater abundance here than in any other county, being plentiful even in the hedge rows. Of theſe are various kinds, yielding liquors of different ſtrength and qualities. The Styer cyder is remarkable for a ſtrength and body unuſual to this liquor, and keeps very well.

The ſheep of Herefordſhire are ſmall, affording a fine ſilky wool, in quality approaching to the Spaniſh. The *Lemſter* wool has long been famous, as well as that from the diſtrict called *Irchinfield*, near Roſs. Dyer, ſpeaking of the light dry ſoils fitteſt for the breeding

breeding of ſheep, particularizes more places in this county than in any other. The lines are very happily deſcriptive of the ſeveral ſituations.

——— Such too the leas
And ruddy tilth which ſpiry *Roſs* beholds,
From a green hillock, o'er her loſty elms;
And *Lemſter*'s brooky tract, and airy *Croſt*,
And ſuch Harleian *Eywood*'s ſwelling turf,
Waved as the billows of a rolling ſea;
And *Shobden* for its loſty terrace fam'd,
Which, from a mountain's ridge, elate o'er woods,
And girt with all Siluria, ſees around
Regions on regions blended in the clouds.

FLEECE.

The grain of this fruitful county is not leſs excellent than its other products. The wheat of its vales, and barley of its high grounds, are equal to the beſt in England. The proportion of land under the plough is eſtimated at two thirds of the whole. Many hops are grown, eſpecially in the woodland parts. The waſte ground is a ſmall portion of the county. The principal part of it lies at the foot of the Black Mountain.

As the employments of agriculture are ſo ſucceſsfully followed here, it cannot be expected that the inhabitants ſhould turn their induſtry to manufactures. The towns of Herefordſhire are therefore inconſiderable.

Its capital, the city of *Hereford*, is an ancient decayed place, with a large cathedral in danger of ſpeedy ruin. It has a manufacture of gloves.

Roſs is chiefly remarkable for its pleaſant ſituation, and for the appellation it has given of *the Man of Roſs* to one of its townſmen, Mr. John Kyrle, whoſe benevolence and public ſpirit Pope has ſo finely celebrated. It is the centre of the principal barley country.

Leominſter, or *Lemſter*, has already been mentioned for its wool, and its market is alſo of note for the fineſt wheat; as *Weobly* in its neighbourhood is for malt liquor.

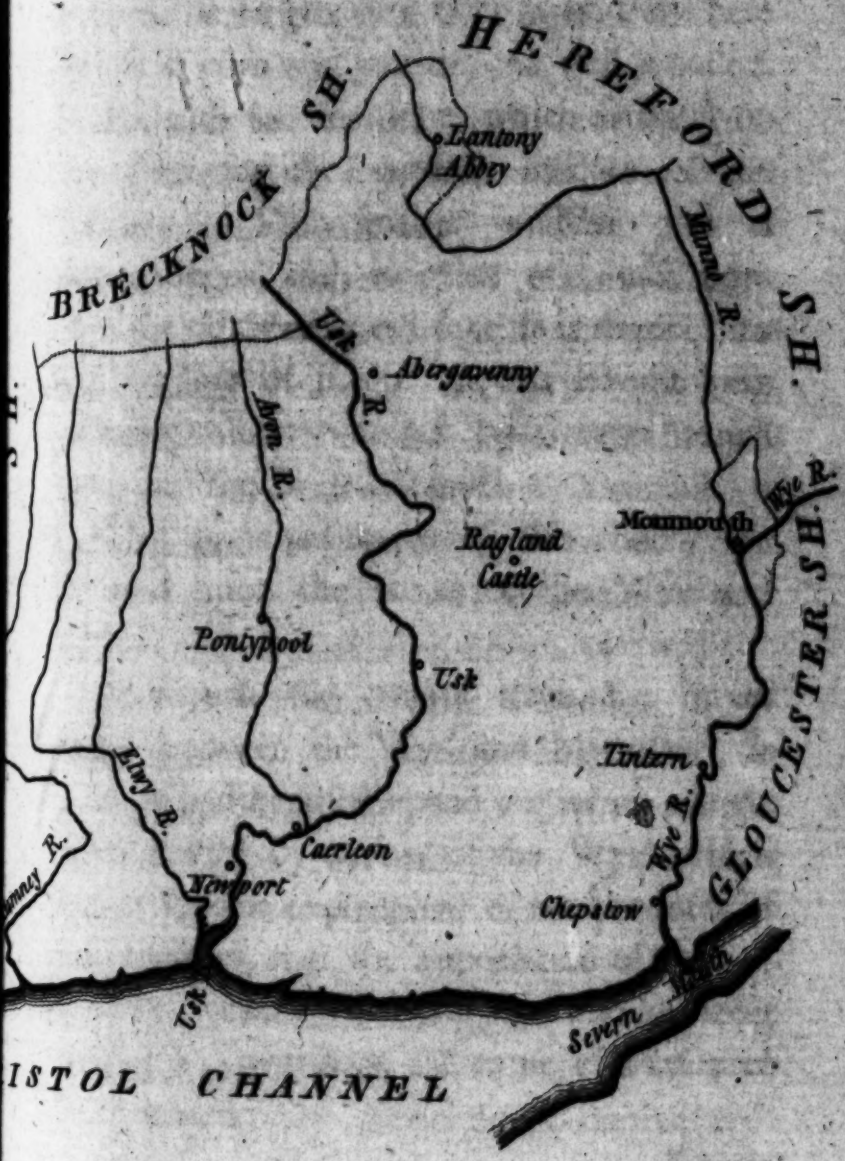
Ledbury, near the Malvern hills, has a ſhare in the clothing trade.

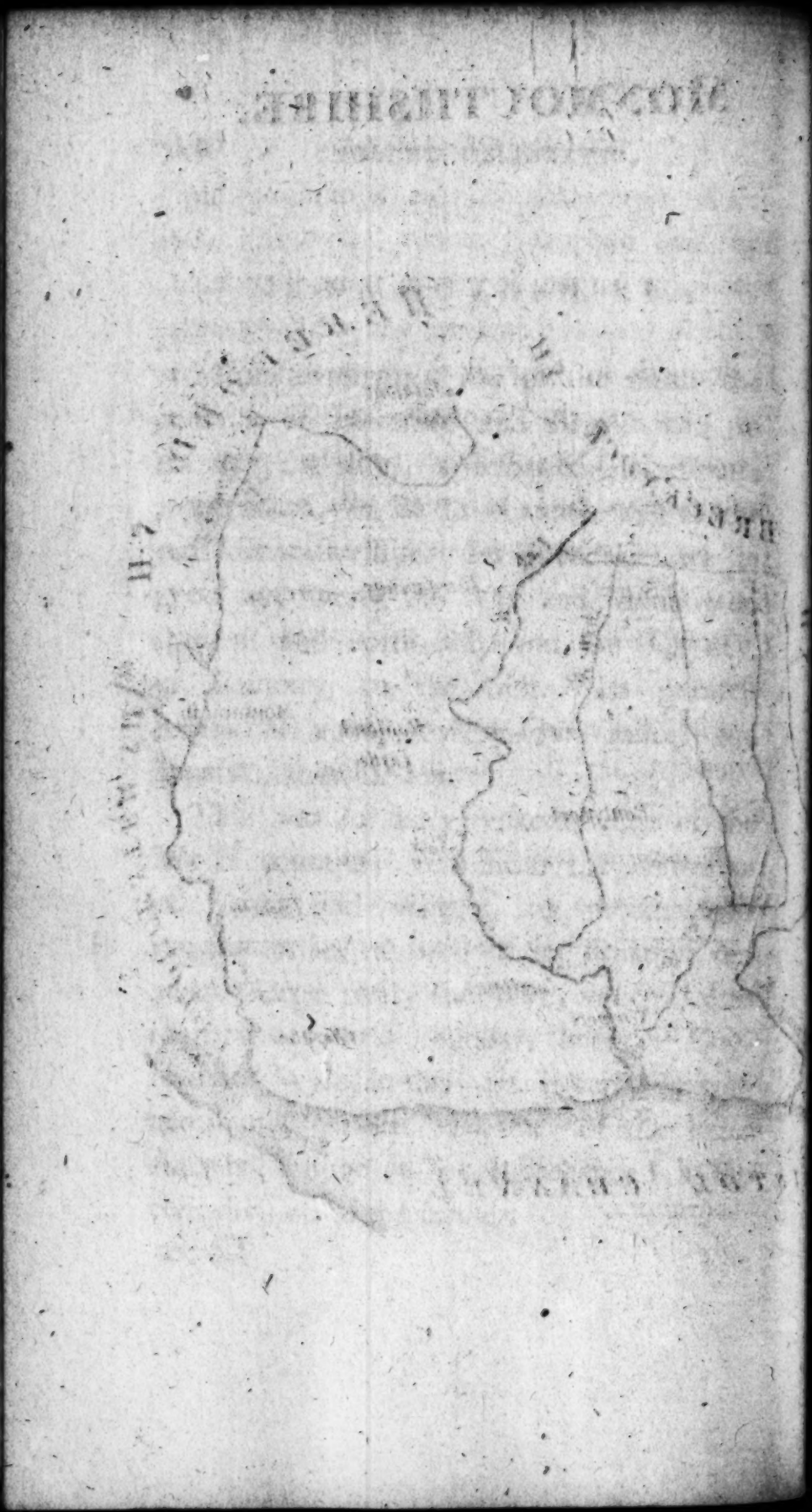
MONMOUTHSHIRE.

MONMOUTHSHIRE has to the north the counties of Hereford and Brecknock; to the weſt the latter, and that of Glamorgan; to the ſouth the Briſtol channel; and to the eaſt Glouceſterſhire. Its boundaries are in great part rivers; the Wye and Mynnow to the eaſt and north-eaſt, and the Rhyney, or Rumney, to the weſt. Its greateſt length is about twenty-four miles, and breadth ſomewhat leſs.

This was formerly reckoned one of the Welſh counties; and, from the names of its towns and villages, its mountainous rugged ſurface, as well as its ſituation beyond a large river, the Wye, which ſeems to form a natural boundary between England and Wales in this part, it certainly partakes moſt of the character of the latter country, though it is comprehended in the civil diviſion of the former.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.





The river Uſk divides Monmouthſhire into two unequal portions, of which the eaſtern, or largeſt, is a tract upon the whole fertile in corn and paſture, and well wooded. It abounds in limeſtone, which is burnt on the ſpot for the general manure of the country. The ſmaller weſtern part is mountainous, and, in great part, unfavourable for cultivation, whence it is devoted to the feeding of ſheep. It has ſeveral long narrow vallies, watered by ſtreams which flow into the Briſtol channel.

The principal towns of this county are ſituated upon the banks of the Wye and Uſk.

Monmouth, the county town, lies in an angle between the Wye and Mynnow. It is large and handſome, and carries on a trade with Briſtol by means of the Wye, which ſerves for the exportation of the products of the country, and the importation of foreign articles. Here was born the warlike king Henry V. who bore the name of Henry of Monmouth.

Lower

Lower down the Wye the remains of *Tintern-abbey*, and the caſtle of *Chepſtow*, form objects highly picturesque, amid the wild beauties of this tract. Near Tintern are large iron works, at which ore is ſmelted, brought chiefly from Furneſs in Lancaſhire. The town of *Chepſtow* has a tolerable port, at which the tide, ruſhing up from the broad mouth of the Severn, riſes to a very extraordinary height. Chepſtow carries on a conſiderable trade with the circumjacent country.

On the Uſk are three towns of great antiquity, though now of little conſequence; *Abergavenny*, *Caerwyſke*, or *Uſke*, and *Caerleon*. The firſt of theſe has a traffic in flannels.

Newport, near the mouth of the river, has a pretty good harbour, and poſſeſſes ſome trade.

Both the Uſk and the Wye are well ſtocked with fiſh, particularly fine ſalmon.

The *Avon*, a river which empties itſelf into the Uſk at Caerleon, turns ſeveral mills

for

for the working of iron plates, which are uſed in a manufactory of japanned ware (now on the decline) at *Ponty-pool*, on its banks.

Other places in this county worth noticing are, the narrow ſequeſtered *Vale of Evias*, beneath the Hatterel-hills, formerly the well-adapted ſite of a monaſtery; and the ruins of *Ragland-caſtle*, a fortreſs of great ſtrength, ſo late as the time of Charles I. in whoſe favour it held out, under the Marquis of Worceſter, to the very end of the civil wars.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THIS county, bounded on the north by Yorkſhire and Lincolnſhire; on the eaſt by the latter county; on the ſouth by Leiceſterſhire; and on the weſt by Derbyſhire; is of the figure of a long oval, with its narroweſt end towards the north. Its greateſt length is near fifty miles; its greateſt breadth above twenty. Being happily ſituated between the mountainous country of Derbyſhire on the one hand and the flat of Lincolnſhire on the other, it enjoys ſuch a temperature of ſoil and climate, as to render it one of the moſt fertile and agreeable counties in England: an evidence of which is the uncommon number of ſeats of the firſt nobility contained in it.

The glory of this county is its noble river the *Trent*; which, after croſſing the counties of Stafford and Derby, enters Nottinghamſhire at its ſouth-weſtern extremity, and thence,

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

thence, croſſing obliquely to the eaſt, coaſts along its whole eaſtern ſide, becoming towards the northern part the boundary betwixt this county and that of Lincoln. During this whole courſe, the Trent is a large navigable river, imparting fertility to the wide tract of meadows through which it flows, and affording a ready conveyance for the corn and other products of the county. Its chief inconvenience is that of being ſubject to frequent and great floods.

From the middle and north-weſtern parts of this county ſeveral ſtreams unite to form the *Idle*, a river which joins the Trent at the north-eaſtern angle of Nottinghamſhire. The Cheſterfield canal croſſes the northern extremity of the county, and enters the Trent near the mouth of the Idle.

As to ſoil and face of country, Nottinghamſhire may be divided into three or four parallel diſtricts, pretty diſtinct from each other. A narrow ſtripe on the Derbyſhire border, ſtretching as far ſouth as oppoſite to Nottingham, is the limeſtone and coal diſ-

trict. This is chiefly arable, and contains ſeveral woods. The next is a much broader ſtripe, running quite up to the northern extremity of the county, compoſed chiefly of ſand and gravel. This includes the whole of the ancient royal foreſt of *Sherwood*, popularly known as the ſcene of many fabulous adventures of the noted outlaw Robin Hood and his companions. Much of this lies in a waſte ſtate, with but ſmall remains of the woods with which it was formerly covered. A conſiderable quantity of the land has however been encloſed and brought into cultivation, and ſeveral large parks have been taken out of it by grants from the crown, which are brought into tillage or covered with flouriſhing plantations. The turnip huſbandry has been introduced with great ſucceſs upon the foreſt encloſures, and a large quantity of barley and other grain is produced. Some hops are grown in this diſtrict; and an article for dying yellow, called weld, or dyer's weed. The next parallel tract, nearly of the ſame ex-

tent, is the clay diſtrict, reaching from the former quite to the banks of the Trent at the northern end of the county, but leaving an intermediate ſpace at the middle and ſouthern point. A patch of the clay diſtrict alſo appears beyond the Trent at the very ſouthern extremity of the county. Of this a great part is arable, intermixed with ſome paſture and woods. Many hops are grown about Redford; and more pigeons are ſuppoſed to be kept in this diſtrict than any where beſides in England. The Trent bank land forms another diſtrict, ſpreading on each ſide the river from its entrance out of Leiceſterſhire to the part where it forms the Lincolnſhire boundary. The banks of the Soar may alſo be comprehended in this diviſion. The arable of this diſtrict, which is the ſmaller proportion, yields remarkably fine oats. The paſture is chiefly devoted to feeding, though there are ſome large dairies on the ſouth bank. The beautiful vale of Belvoir forms another tract, lying beyond the ſouth-eaſt Trent bank to

the borders of Leiceſterſhire and Lincolnſhire. It is a rich loamy ſoil, cultivated with a mixture of arable and paſture.

Nottinghamſhire has of old been famous for its *bread* and *beer*; and to this day its chief products and exports are corn and malt. It is alſo of no ſmall conſequence as a manufacturing county; and its fabrics are at preſent in a thriving and increaſing ſtate. Theſe we ſhall now proceed to mention.

Nottingham, the county-town, beautifully ſituated on a rocky eminence above the meadows bordering the Trent, crowned with its ſtately caſtle, is a large, populous, and handſome town, diſtinguiſhed by its ſpacious market place, and noted as one of the principal ſeats of the ſtocking manufacture. The goods made here are chiefly of the finer kinds, as thoſe of ſilk and cotton; and the trade is extended to the neighbourhood round, and ſome of the more diſtant towns. As the articles of the Nottinghamſhire manufactures are valuable in proportion to their bulk, they are chiefly conveyed

conveyed to the different ports and places of conſumption by land. A conſiderable ſhare of them is exported to various parts of Europe, America, and the Weſt Indies. The cotton for this manufacture is ſpun by machinery worked by water in this county and in Derbyſhire. Nottingham has alſo a manufactory of coarſe earthen ware. At this town king Charles firſt ſet up his ſtandard at the commencement of the unfortunate civil wars which terminated in his deſtruction and that of the conſtitution.

Mansfield, on the borders of Sherwood-foreſt, has a great trade in corn and malt, and participates in the ſtocking manufacture.

Sutton, in its neighbourhood, has alſo a thriving manufactory of the ſame kind, which extends to a greater variety of articles than any other in the kingdom; ſuch as milled woollen caps, for the Canadian and other markets, and pieces for waiſtcoats, &c. of fancy patterns, woven in the ſtocking frame, which are exported to France, Germany, and other parts of Europe.

Newark is a conſiderable and very neat

market town near the Trent. Here, in the midſt of troubles which his own folly and baſeneſs had excited, died the inglorious king John. The ſtory of his being poiſoned is now rejected by the beſt hiſtorians. Here, too, the equally unfortunate king Charles I. after his defeat at Naſeby, put himſelf into the hands of the Scotch army, then beſieging this town, by whom he was afterwards given up to his worſt enemies.

At *Stoke*, in the neighbourhood of Newark, John de la Pole, earl of Lincoln, rebelling againſt Henry VII. in favour of the impoſtor Simnel, was routed and ſlain with his whole party in the year 1487.

Beacon-hill, alſo near Newark, is noted for ſome of the moſt conſiderable quarries in England of gypſum, or plaſter-ſtone. Much of it is exported from Gainſborough to London and other places.

Near *Worksop* liquorice was formerly cultivated. Its vicinity is peculiarly remarkable for the number of ſeats of the firſt nobility.

DERBYSHIRE.

CHESHIRE
YORKSHIRE
STAFFORDSHIRE
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
LEICESTER SH.
Etherow R.
High Peak
Goyt R.
Chapel le Frith
Tidswall
Buxton
Bakewell
Moors
Dronfield
Canal
Chesterfield
Bolsover
Dove R.
Winster
Matlock
Wirksworth
Alfreton
Ashborn
Derwent R.
Erewash R.
Derby
Dove R.
Canal
Trent R.

DERBYSHIRE

THE boundaries of this county are, on the north, a ſmall part of Cheſhire and Yorkſhire; on the eaſt Nottinghamſhire; on the ſouth, Leiceſterſhire, a ſingle point of Warwickſhire, and Staffordſhire; and on the weſt this laſt county and Cheſhire. The rivers Merſey, Goyt, and Dove, form almoſt the whole of its weſtern limits from north to ſouth. The general figure of this county is triangular, gradually growing narrower to the ſouth, where it ends in a point. The extreme length is fifty miles; the breadth at the northern extremity about thirty-eight.

In Derbyſhire terminates the moſt conſpicuous part of the middle chain of hills out of the north; and great part of the county is occupied by it, particularly the northern and weſtern parts. The *Peak*, comprehending its north-weſtern angle, is

one of the moſt celebrated of the mountainous regions in England; for, though its hills do not ſoar to the height of thoſe in Cumberland, Weſtmoreland, and Wales, nor afford the romantic beauties of lakes, caſcades, and hanging woods, yet its ſituation in a more central part of the iſland, and its extraordinary caverns, perforations, and other curioſities, have cauſed it to be much known and viſited. The *Wonders of the Peak* have been deſcribed both in proſe and verſe; but language has little power to give adequate ideas of ſcenes of this kind.

The mineral products of this hilly tract are various and valuable. Lead, the moſt important of them, has been gotten in great abundance out of the Derbyſhire mines, but many of theſe are now exhauſted. Much lime is burned in the lower Peak, which is of the beſt quality, and is ſent to conſiderable diſtances on horſes' backs. Iron ore is dug chiefly on the north-eaſtern ſide. Calamine is found in the neighbourhood of the lead. Coals are plentiful in many parts, but

but chiefly on the eaſtern ſide from north to ſouth. Marble is frequent in the hills; and ſome beautiful kinds of it are poliſhed at the works at *Aſhford*. The Derbyſhire ſpars are uncommonly elegant, and are wrought into a variety of ornamental articles. The numerous quarries yield ſtone for various purpoſes; among which is plenty of plaſter-ſtone, or gypſum, got at *Chelaſton*, ſouth of Derby.

The ſouthern part of the county and up to the middle of it, eſpecially on the eaſtern ſide, is, in general, a rich and well cultivated country, divided between arable and paſture. The weſtern ſide, on the banks of the Dove, is chiefly devoted to paſture; and much cheeſe, made in theſe parts, is ſent to London and other places. A ſingular object of culture in ſome parts of the county is that of cammomile flowers, which are chiefly ſold to the London druggiſts.

On the hills and open moors of the Peak many horned cattle are bred; and in the ſummer large herds of young cattle are driven

driven hither to feed from the neighbouring counties. A ſmall breed of ſheep are kept in great numbers in the hilly country.

The principal river of Derbyſhire is the *Derwent*, which, riſing in the high Peak, flows directly through the midſt of the county, dividing it into two nearly equal portions; and, after paſſing Derby, empties itſelf into the Trent on the borders of Leiceſterſhire.

The *Dove* holds a courſe parallel to the Derwent, between Staffordſhire and Derbyſhire, and alſo terminates in the Trent.

The *Trent* itſelf juſt croſſes the ſouthern angle of Derbyſhire, and, for a ſhort ſpace, makes its ſeparation from the counties of Leiceſter and Nottingham. On the borders of the laſt it is joined by the *Erewaſh*, a rivulet which forms a conſiderable ſhare of the eaſtern limit. The banks of the Trent are a tract of very fine meadows. Parallel to the courſe of this river runs the canal, making a junction between it and the Merſey, which joins the Trent at Wilden. A

canal

canal alſo runs parallel to the Erewaſh for ſome miles through ſeveral collieries, and terminates in the Trent not far from the former.

The county town, *Derby*, is of conſiderable ſize, handſome, and well inhabited. It is particularly noted for its large ſilk-mill, the firſt of the kind erected in England, and taken from an Italian model. Its operations are to wind, double, and twiſt the ſilk, ſo as to render it fit for weaving. It has employed many hands in the town, but the work is now on the decline. Derby alſo poſſeſſes a conſiderable manufactory of ſilk, cotton, and fine worſted ſtockings; and has a fabric of porcelain, ſaid to be equal or ſuperior in quality to any in the kingdom. Several hands are employed in the lapidary and jewellery branches, and the work of this kind executed here is in high eſtimation. Derbyſhire and foreign marbles are alſo wrought here into a variety of ornamental articles. The malting trade is likewiſe conſiderable in this town. The Derwent is navigable from hence to the Trent.

Cheſterfield

Chesterfield is the next considerable trading town in this county. It has a manufactory of worsted and cotton stockings; and also of carpets, but of small extent. Four potteries, chiefly for brown ware, are established here; and near the town are large iron-founderies, the ore and coal for the supply of which are dug in the neighbourhood. Large quantities of coals and lead are sent from Chesterfield by the new canal cut from this town to the Trent, which it joins below Gainsborough. This conveyance also serves for the iron and other bulky goods.

Ashborn, on the Dove, a market town, is noted for its fairs for cattle. In its neighbourhood is one of the most romantic spots in the county, *Dove-Dale*, where that river runs in a chasm between precipitous rocks.

At *Cromford*, on the Derwent, some of the greatest of the new cotton-mills have been erected by the late Sir Richard Arkwright, to whom this capital improvement of mechanism is due. By their means the branches of the cotton manufacture are now spreading in this county; and a large

supply

ſupply of materials is alſo ſent from them to the Lancaſhire manufactories. A canal is lately carried from hence to join the Erewaſh navigation.

In that part of the Peak which borders on Yorkſhire, ſome woollen cloth is made; and in the neighbourhood of Sheffield the cutlery buſineſs extends into Derbyſhire. The hoſiery trade is carried on extenſively on the Nottinghamſhire border, and alſo at Litton near Tideſwell.

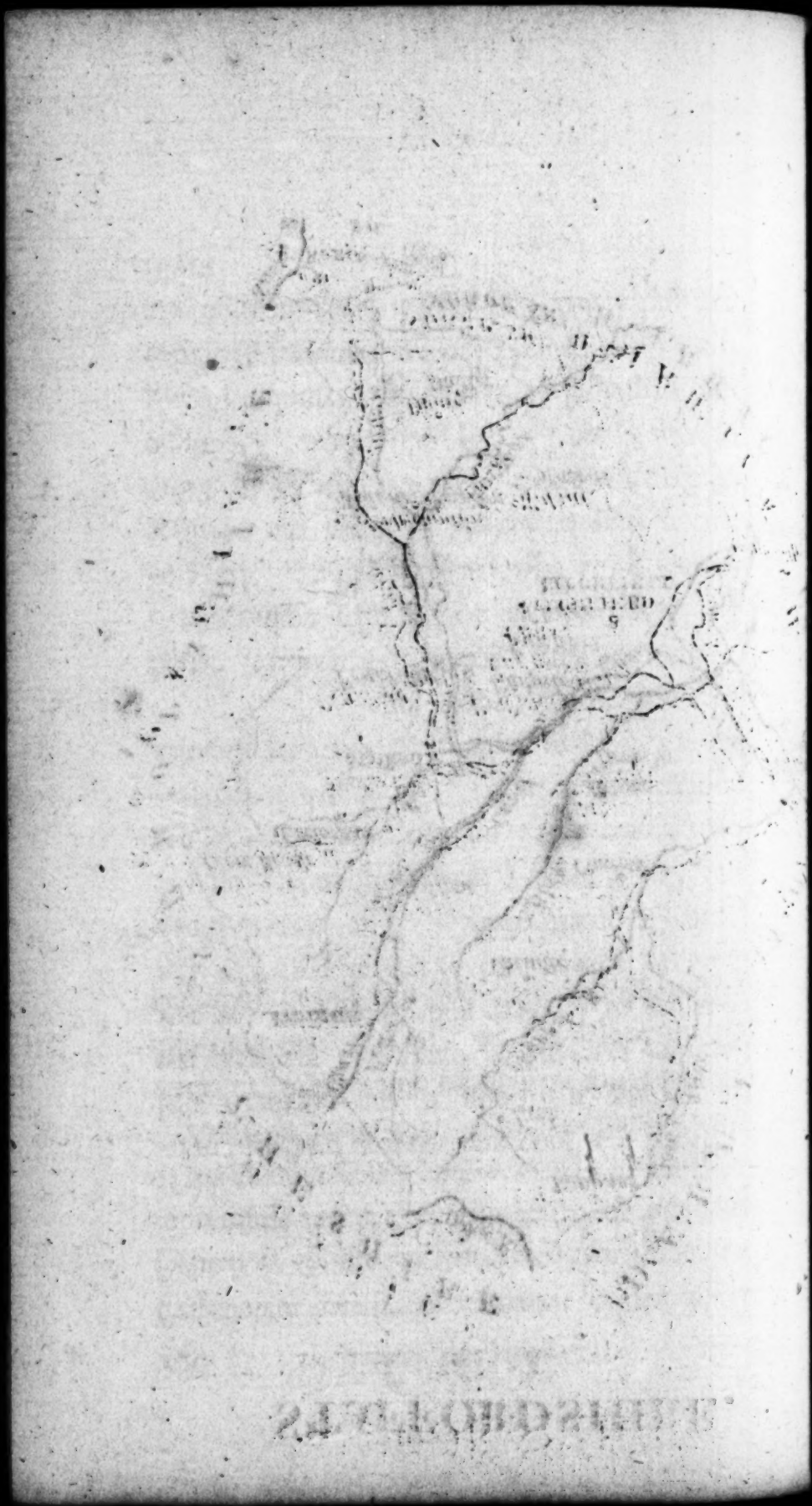
Several mineral waters are found in the hilly parts of Derbyſhire. Of theſe the moſt celebrated are the warm ſprings of *Buxton*, the temperature of which, being lower than of thoſe at Bath, is extremely agreeable for bathing; and they have been found of great uſe in various caſes, eſpecially of the rheumatic kind. This has occaſioned a great reſort of company, and a number of large and commodious buildings, in a place otherwiſe the moſt dreary and unpleaſant that can be conceived.

Matlock, on the Derwent, is alſo much

(which

frequented, partly on account of its bath, (which is ſomewhat warmer than the common temperature) but ſtill more on account of the uncommon beauties of its ſituation.

Kedleſton near Derby has a ſulphureous water in conſiderable reputation for ſcorbutic diſorders and ulcers. At *Quarndon*, in its neighbourhood, is a fine chalybeat ſpring.



STAFFORDSHIRE.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

THIS is a long and narrow tract of country ending in a point at the northern and ſouthern extremities, having to the weſt the counties of Cheſter and Salop; to the eaſt thoſe of Derby and Warwick; and to the ſouth Worceſterſhire. The rivers Dove and Trent form a natural boundary on the Derbyſhire ſide; on the other ſides it has no remarkable limits. In length it extends about fifty-five miles; its extreme breadth does not exceed twenty-four.

The northern part of Staffordſhire, called the *Moorlands*, is a wild hilly country, reſembling the adjacent Derbyſhire. Its elevation may be judged of from the number of ſtreams which take their riſe in it, ſome of which run into oppoſite ſeas. Of theſe the principal is the *Trent*, which, iſſuing from three ſeveral ſprings between Congleton and Leek, flows ſouthwards through the midſt

midſt of the county, continually augmented by rills from the ſame region; and at length, having received the *Tame* from the ſouth, acquires a new direction, and, with a north-eaſterly courſe, penetrates into Derbyſhire, juſt after its junction with the *Dove*. This laſt river, riſing alſo in the Moorlands, runs between the counties of Derby and Stafford to the place where it meets the Trent, having received from the north of Staffordſhire the *Manyfold*, the *Churnet*, and ſeveral other ſtreams.

South of the Trent the principal rivers are the *Sow*, running parallel and near to that river till it falls into it below Stafford; and the *Penk*, flowing by Penkridge to join the Sow. The *Stour* runs through the ſouthern angle of the county in its courſe to meet the Severn in Worceſterſhire.

The valley along which the Trent glides is for the moſt part very fertile and beautiful, adorned with ſeats and plantations, and affording a variety of beautiful proſpects. The middle and ſouthern parts of the county

in

in general are agreeably diverſified with wood, paſture, and arable. The great foreſt of *Cank* or *Cannock*, in the centre, once covered with oaks, is now and has long been a wide naked tract. At the ſouthern extremity the *Clent-hills*, *Hagley*, and its neighbourhood, are well known for the more romantic beauties which they poſſeſs. In this tract the counties of Stafford, Worceſter, and Salop, are ſtrangely intermixed.

Coal is abundant in various parts of Staffordſhire; particularly in the moorlands and the neighbourhood of Newcaſtle; and alſo about Wolverhampton, at Bilſton and Wedneſbury, whence Birmingham is chiefly ſupplied with its fuel. The northern and ſouthern parts alſo contain much iron ore.

This county has long been noted, and is now particularly famous, for its potteries; the chief ſeat of which is near Newcaſtle, in a line of villages extending about ten miles. The neighbourhood affords abundance of the moſt bulky materials for this buſineſs, viz. fire-clay and coals; but their

finer clays are brought from Purbeck in Dorſetſhire, and other parts of that coaſt; and flints from the chalk pits near Graveſend, and ſome from Wales and Ireland. For the conveyance of theſe they have the benefit of water-carriage, either from Hull and Gainſborough, by means of the Trent, which communicates with the ſouthern extremity of the grand Staffordſhire canal; or from Liverpool, by means of the Merſey, and the duke of Bridgewater's navigation, to the northern extremity of the ſame canal. The manufactured goods are ſent away by the ſame conveyances. The perfection to which this manufacture has been brought, and the great elegance of the uſeful and ornamental articles of which it conſiſts, have rendered it a very important object of commerce, both foreign and domeſtic.

Some iron works are eſtabliſhed in the neighbourhood of Newcaſtle.

The ſouthern extremity of the county is enlivened by various branches of the hardware manufacture, in which it participates with the

the neighbouring Birmingham. *Walſall*, *Dudley*, and *Wolverhampton*, are concerned in this trade. The latter is a conſiderable town, which has been long famous for its lock manufactory, and now makes a great quantity of the japanned ware.

The trade of this county is in a peculiar manner aſſiſted by the grand ſyſtem of canal navigation, of which it is, as it were, the centre, and which is carried through its whole length. The *grand trunk*, as it has been ingeniouſly termed, enters the north of the county from Cheſhire, and, after piercing Harecaſtle-hill, by a ſubterraneous paſſage of a mile and a half in length, paſſes through the potteries, and thence ſouthwards acroſs the Trent almoſt to Litchfield; from whence it turns ſhort over the Trent again, and over the Dove, in its way to mix with the Trent at Wilden-ferry. From the neighbourhood of Stafford it ſends off a branch which runs directly ſouthwards by Penkridge, and near Wolverhampton, to join the Severn near Kidderminſter. With this a

canal from Birmingham and another from Stourbridge communicate. Thus the great ports of Briſtol, Liverpool, and Hull, are all acceſſible to the various products and manufactures of Staffordſhire.

Stafford, the county town, is of moderate ſize, and has little concern with trade.

The ſame may be ſaid of *Litchfield*, which unites with Coventry in forming a biſhop's ſee. It is a neat and well built place, and has a fine cathedral.

Burton upon the Trent is well known for the excellence of its malt liquor, great quantities of which are ſent down the river (which is navigable ſo far) to Hull, and exported to other parts of the kingdom and abroad.

Newcaſtle, diſtinguiſhed by the name of *under Line*, has a large manufactory of hats.

Leek, in the Moorlands, has a ſhare in the ſilk and twiſt button trade.

On the weſtern border of the county near Drayton, is *Blore-heath*, where the party of York, under the earl of Saliſbury, defeated the

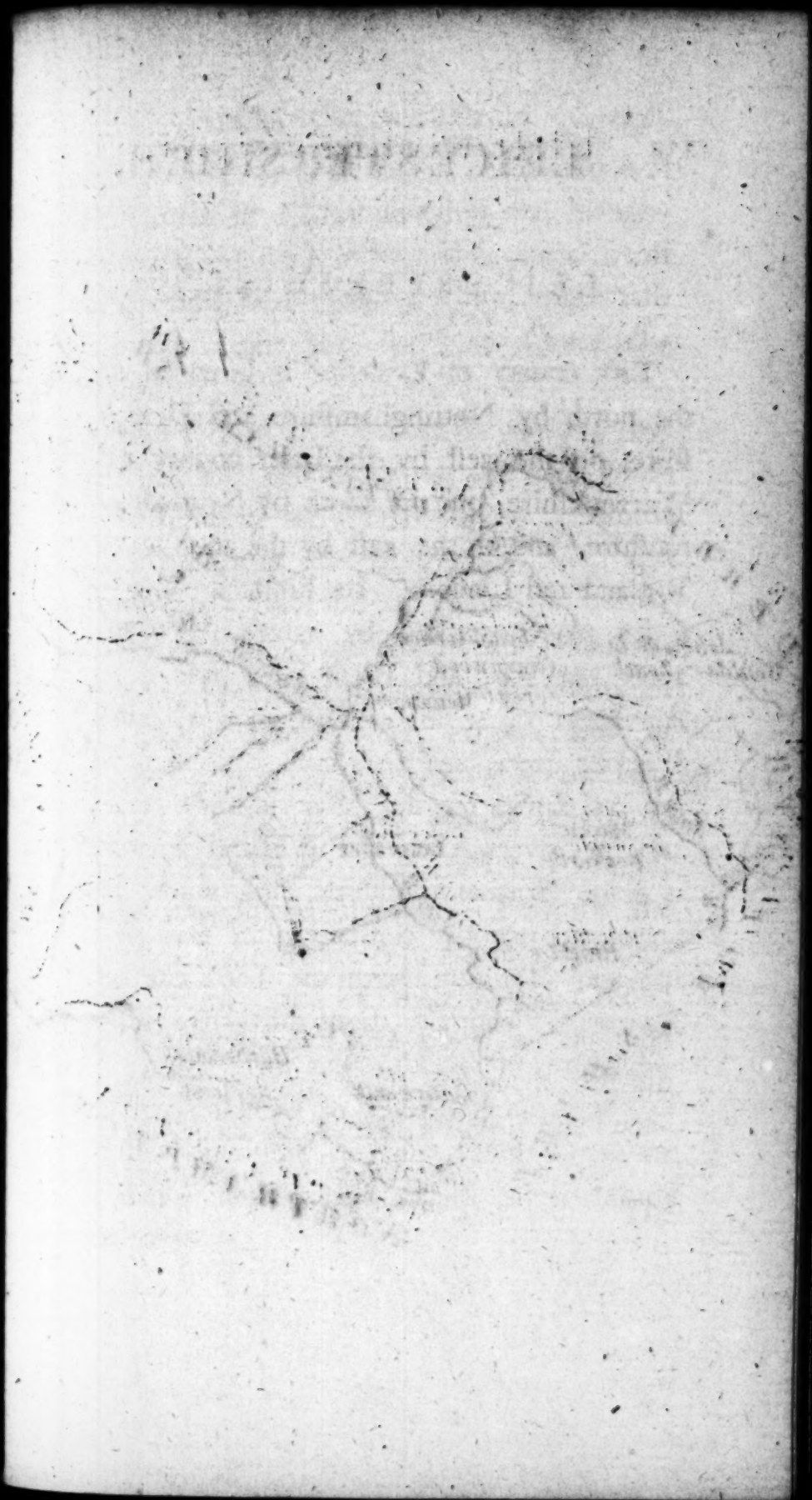
the Lancaſtrians commanded by lord Audley. Queen Margaret beheld the battle from a neighbouring ſteeple.

Hopton-heath, near Stafford, was the ſcene of a hot ſkirmiſh in the civil wars of Charles I. in which the royaliſts gained the advantage, though with the loſs of their commander, the earl of Northampton.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE county of Leiceſter is bounded on the north by Nottinghamſhire and Derbyſhire, on the weſt by the latter county and Warwickſhire, on the ſouth by Northamptonſhire, and on the eaſt by the counties of Rutland and Lincoln. Its limits are but in a few places marked by nature. To the north the Soar and Trent form part of its boundary. The famous Roman road called Watling-ſtreet, and the ſmall river Ankor, are its limits on the Warwickſhire ſide; and the rivers Avon and Welland ſeparate it from Northamptonſhire. Its ſhape has been not unaptly compared to that of a ſhoulder of mutton with the ſhank cut off. Its greateſt length is about thirty-five miles, and its greateſt breadth near forty-five.

The principal river of Leiceſterſhire is the *Soar*, which, riſing in the ſouth-weſtern border, runs to Leiceſter, after which it receives



LEICESTERSHIRE.

receives the *Wreke* from the north-eaſt, and then turns to Mount-ſoar-hill and Loughborough, watering in its courſe meadows of uncommon beauty and fertility, till it falls into the Trent not far from Cavendiſh-bridge.

The ſoil of this county is various, but for the moſt part is ſtrong and ſtiff, compoſed of clay and marl: hence it affords great quantities of rich grazing land, and is peculiarly fitted for the culture of beans; for which it is proverbially noted. The proportion of paſture and meadow land through the whole county much exceeds that of arable. There are few open fields now left; and the quantity of waſte ground is proportionally very ſmall. The ſurface is in moſt parts varied and uneven. Towards the north-weſt the *Bardon-hills* riſe to a conſiderable height; and in their neighbourhood lies *Charnwood* or *Charley-foreſt*, a rough and open tract. Further to the north-weſt are valuable coal mines, which ſupply the country round to a great diſtance.

The north-eaſtern part feeds great numbers of ſheep, a principal article of the wealth of its inhabitants. The Leiceſterſhire ſheep are of very large ſize, without horns, and clothed with thick long flakes of ſoft wool, particularly fit for the worſted manufactures. Of theſe the *Poet of the Fleece* thus ſpeaks:

> Need we the level greens of Lincoln note,
> Or rich Leiceſtria's marly plains, for length
> Of whiteſt locks, and magnitude of fleece
> Peculiar; envy of the neighb'ring realms.
>
> DYER.

The eaſtern and ſouth-eaſtern part of the county is a rich grazing tract, which breeds numbers of cattle of large ſize, to ſupply the London and other markets. This county, indeed, has long been famous for its large black horſes and horned cattle, as well as its ſheep; and its reputation has lately been much extended by the great ſkill and attention of *Mr. Bakewell*, at *Diſhley*, near Loughborough, who has bred every ſpecies of domeſtic quadruped to the utmoſt perfection

perfection of form and ſize. He has, indeed, as it were created new breeds of theſe animals, in which, with perfect ſymmetry of ſhape, he has united the greateſt quantity of fleſh with the ſmalleſt poſſible proportion of bone and offal. His breed of ſheep, called the new Leiceſter, has in great meaſure taken place of the old breed, and is diſperſed through moſt counties in the kingdom.

Much cheeſe is made in the weſtern ſide of the county about *Leiceſter-foreſt*, and in ſome other parts. The rich kind called Stilton is made in the villages round *Melton Mowbray*.

This is ſo much of a farming country, that manufactures have not made much progreſs in it, except one, connected with its great product of wool, the ſtocking trade. The chief ſeat of this is at the county-town,

Leiceſter, a place of great antiquity, but much fallen off from its former magnitude and importance. It ſuffered much in the various civil commotions of this kingdom; and in thoſe under Charles I. was ſtormed

by the royaliſts with conſiderable ſlaughter. It is ſtill a populous, but by no means a handſome, town. The combing and ſpining of wool into worſted, and manufacturing it into ſtockings and other hoſiery articles, is the chief buſineſs of Leiceſter and its neighbourhood. The goods are chiefly of the coarſe kinds, and are partly taken off by home conſumption, partly exported. They are conveyed away by land carriage. In theſe manufactures the Leiceſterſhire wool is in part conſumed: the remainder is ſent into Yorkſhire for making woollen ſtuffs. The trade of Leiceſter was long nearly ſtationary, owing to the want of that ſpirit of improvement which has ſo much advanced many other trading places; but of late years a favourable change has taken place in this reſpect. The benefits of water-communication have lately been extended to it, by making its river navigable, with the aſſiſtance of canals, to the Trent.

In the meadows near this town are the ruins of an abbey, at which that great and

ambitious miniſter Cardinal Wolſey ended his life, under the preſſure of ſickneſs and diſgrace, as it is moſt pathetically deſcribed by Shakeſpeare.

Hinkley is a thriving town, which has been greatly increaſed of late years by the hoſiery buſineſs.

Loughborough participates in the ſame trade. It has the advantage of a canal to the Trent.

Lutterworth, a ſmall market town, is memorable for having been the reſidence of the great Engliſh reformer Wickliffe, who diffuſed his opinions widely in theſe parts.

Melton-Mowbray has a great market for cattle. Its river is made navigable to its junction with the Soar.

Near *Market-Boſworth* is the field of battle where the bloody Richard III. loſt his crown and life together, valiantly fighting againſt the earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry VII.

RUTLANDSHIRE.

RUTLANDSHIRE.

THIS ſmall county, the leaſt in England, encircled by the counties of Lincoln, Leiceſter, and Northampton, and ſeeming as if it were cut out of the two former, is of a roundiſh figure; in length fourteen or fifteen miles, and in breadth ten or twelve. It is ſuppoſed to have received its name from the red colour of the ſoil, which, in ſome parts, is a ſort of ruddle, ſtaining the fleeces of the ſheep.

Rutland is bleſt with a pure air and a fertile ſoil, and is beautifully varied in its ſurface with gentle ſwells and depreſſions. The riſing grounds run eaſt and weſt with vallies intervening about half a mile wide. It abounds in clear ſoft ſprings, guſhing from the ſides of the hills. The ſoil varies, but is generally fertile. That of the eaſt and ſouth-eaſt parts is moſtly ſhallow, upon a limeſtone rock; the other parts are a ſtrong

RUTLANDSHIRE.

ſtrong loam with red earth, or a clay. The products of Rutland are chiefly corn and ſheep. Some of the fineſt ſeed-wheat in the kingdom is grown in its fields; and its fitneſs for ſheep is particularly noted by the poet Dyer, when enumerating the moſt favourable ſpots for this animal:

——————— ſuch the clover'd lawns
And ſunny mounts of beauteous Normanton,
Health's cheerful haunt, and the ſelected walk
Of Heathcote's leiſure.

FLEECE.

The more ancient poet Drayton, celebrates this county as containing in its ſmall compaſs three objects of great beauty and utility.

Small ſhire that can produce to thy proportion good
One vale of ſpecial name, one foreſt, and one flood.

POLYOLBION.

The vale is that rich one of *Catmoſe*, running from the weſtern ſide to the centre of the county, and comprehending the county-town, Okeham. It is croſſed by the little

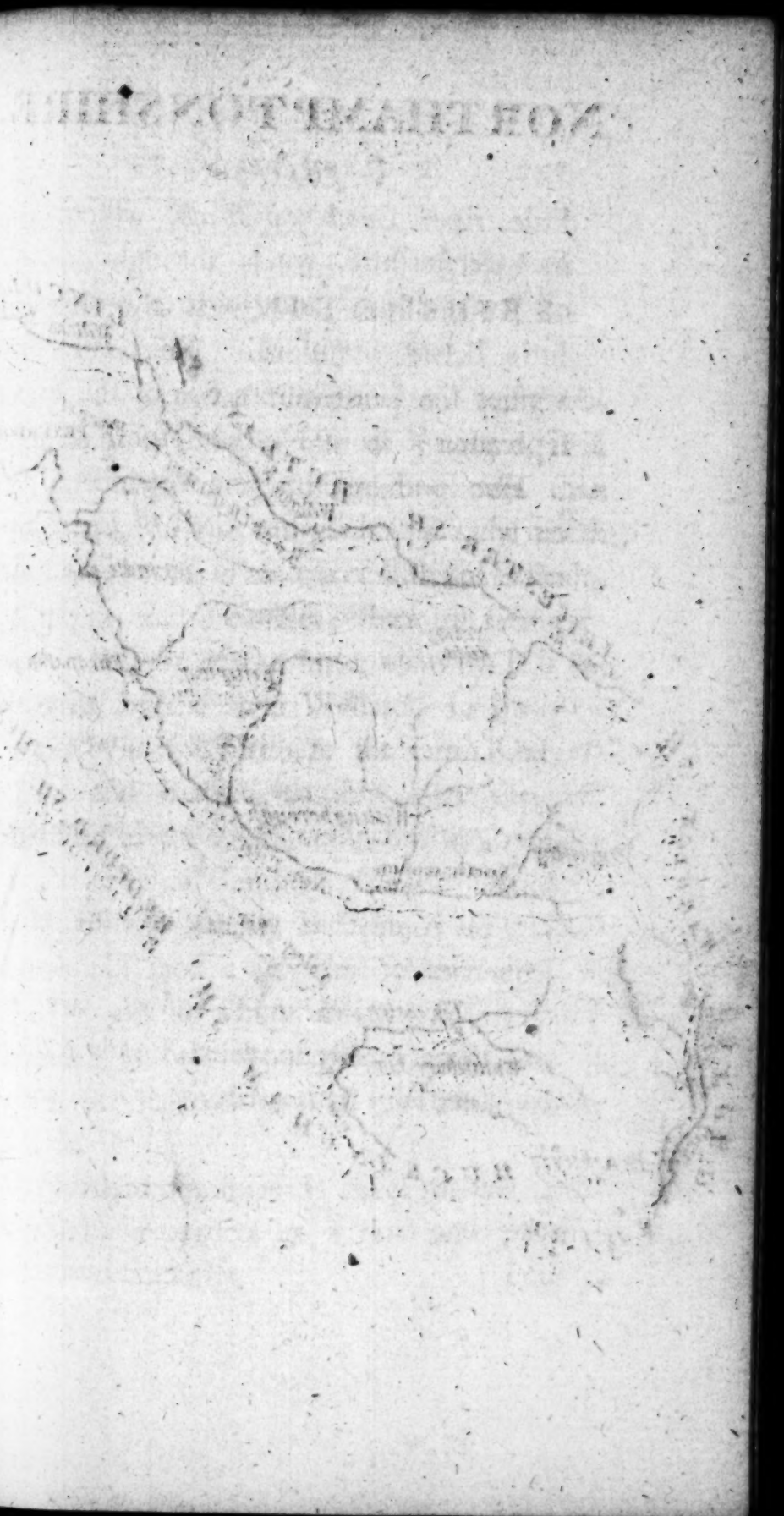
little river *Guaſh* or *Waſh*, which, riſing in Leiceſterſhire, winds through the midſt of Rutlandſhire, and joins the *Welland* a little below Stamford. This latter river waſhes the ſouth-eaſtern ſide of the county, ſeparating it from Northamptonſhire.

The ſouth-weſtern part was formerly entirely occupied by the foreſt of *Liffield*, part of which ſtill remains in its original ſtate, and is ſtocked with deer.

Two market towns are all that this little province poſſeſſes, *Okeham* and *Uppingham*; the former the county-town; but the latter reckoned to have the beſt market. Neither of them is conſiderable for trade or populouſneſs.

This county has no manufacture of conſequence.

At *Ketton*, near Stamford, are large quarries of limeſtone, which ſupply the county round with that article.



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

The county of Northampton, lying obliquely acroſs the middle of England, is in contact with more ſurrounding ones than any other in the kingdom. To the north and north-weſt it has the counties of Lincoln, Rutland, and Leiceſter; from the two former and part of the latter of which it is ſeparated by the river Welland; to the weſt it has Warwickſhire; to the ſouth Oxfordſhire and Buckinghamſhire; to the eaſt Bedfordſhire and Huntingdonſhire, with a ſmall point of Cambridgeſhire. The poſition of this county is from ſouth-weſt to north-eaſt, and it ſtretches in this direction the length of ſixty miles. Its greateſt breadth is only about twenty miles, and it goes on narrowing as it proceeds northwards.

Northamptonſhire is in a manner proverbially regarded as a fine and pleaſant county,

county, which opinion is confirmed by the number of noblemen's and gentlemen's ſeats contained in it. Its greateſt defect is the ſcarcity of fuel, a neceſſary of life but ſcantily ſupplied by its woods, which, like thoſe in all other parts of the kingdom, have been much diminiſhed by agriculture. Yet it ſtill poſſeſſes ſome not inconſiderable remains of its old foreſts, particularly thoſe of *Rockingham* in the north-weſt, and of *Salcey* and *Whittlebury* in the ſouth. In this laſt, that fierceſt of Britiſh animals of prey, the wild cat, is ſtill found. Many ſmaller woods are interſperſed throughout the county.

The higheſt ground in Northamptonſhire is in the neighbourhood of Daventry, where the Nen and Cherwell, which flow into the eaſtern ſea, and the Leam, which flows into the weſtern, riſe within a ſmall compaſs. A little further northwards the Avon and Welland, running into oppoſite ſeas, ſpring near each other. About Towceſter, in the ſouth, the country is alſo hilly, and the ſoil intermixed with clay and a ſort of coarſe grit-ſtone.

The

The principal river of Northamptonſhire is the *Nine* or *Nen*, which, riſing in the weſt, flows firſt acroſs the county to the eaſtern ſide, and then, turning more northward, accompanies the whole remaining length of it. From Northampton it is made navigable, and thus gives admiſſion, though at a dear rate, to the ſea-coal which is ſo much wanted in this county. It receives many ſmall ſtreams riſing from the north-weſtern ſide; and at Peterborough leaves the county in its progreſs acroſs the iſle of Ely to join the ſea in Lincolnſhire. This extreme point of Northamptonſhire, ſurrounded and interſected by rivers, is very liable to inundations, and forms the commencement of the fenny tract which extends to the Lincolnſhire Waſhes.

The *Ouſe* juſt touches on the ſouth-eaſtern corner of the county, forming a tract of rich meadows about Stony Stratford.

The products of Northamptonſhire are in general the ſame with thoſe of other farming countries. It is, indeed, peculiarly cele-

brated for grazing land; that tract eſpecially lying from Northampton northwards to the Leiceſterſhire border. Horned cattle and other animals are here fed to extraordinary ſizes, and many horſes of the large black breed are reared. Woad for the dyer's uſe is cultivated in this part. Much of the arable in this county is ſtill open-field land; and many ſheep are fed on the high grounds.

Northamptonſhire is not eminent for manufactures, nor are its towns remarkable for ſize or opulence.

Northampton, the capital, is a handſome well-built town, in a very healthy ſituation. Its principal manufactory is that of boots and ſhoes, of which many are made here, and in other parts of the county, for exportation. The horſe fairs of this place are greatly reſorted to. In the meadows below the town was fought in 1460 a battle between the forces of Henry VI. and the Yorkiſts, in which the former were defeated, and the king made priſoner. Not far from

from Northampton is a fine gothic edifice called *Queen's croſs*, erected by king Edw. I. to the memory of his beloved queen Eleanor.

Daventry has a conſiderable manufactory of whips and ſilk ſtockings.

Wellingborough does much buſineſs in the boot and ſhoe manufacture, and the lace trade.

The principal employment of *Kettering* is the ſpinning of jerſey and ſome lace-making.

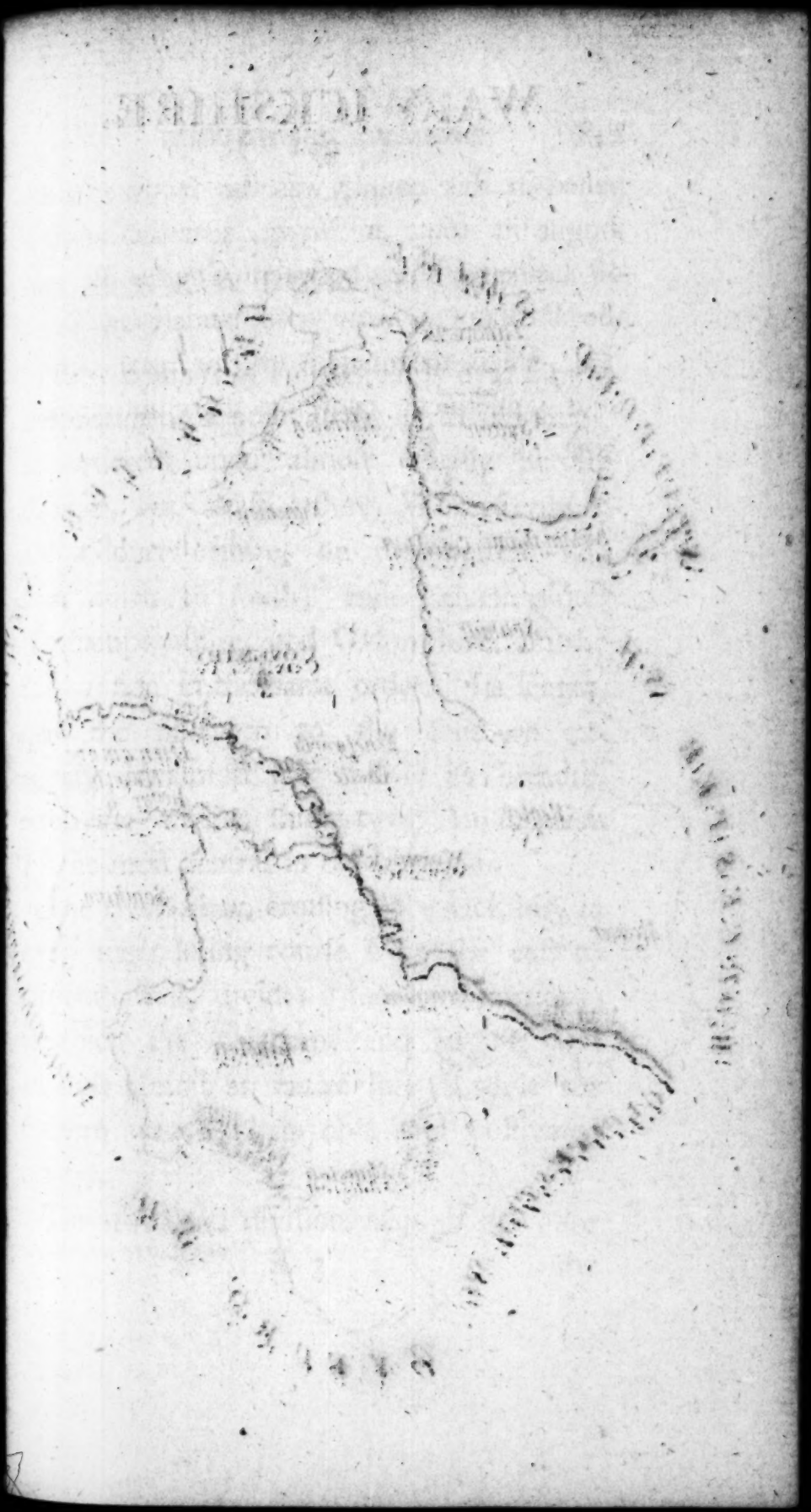
Thrapſton and *Oundle* on the Nen have a ſhare in the import and export trade of that river.

The city of *Peterborough* is of ſmall ſize, but well built; and poſſeſſes a fine old cathedral. It has a trade in corn, coals, and timber.

Fotheringay-caſtle near Oundle is noted as the laſt place of confinement, and at length, of the execution, of Mary queen of Scots, who, in 1586, ſuffered here, with the greateſt conſtancy, the death to which ſhe was ſo unjuſtly ſentenced.

But the moſt important event which hap-

pened in this county was the decisive battle fought in 1645 at *Naseby*, near the borders of Leicestershire, between Charles I. and the Parliament army commanded by Fairfax, which terminated in the total defeat and consequent ruin of that unfortunate king.



WARWICKSHIRE.

WARWICKSHIRE.

This county, of an irregularly oval figure, terminating in a point at the north and ſouth, is bordered upon almoſt equally by ſix counties, viz. Staffordſhire, Worceſterſhire, and Glouceſterſhire, on the weſtern ſide from north to ſouth; and Leiceſterſhire, Northamptonſhire, and Oxfordſhire, on the eaſtern ſide in the ſame order. Its length, from the northern to the ſouthern extremity, is almoſt fifty miles; its breadth, acroſs the middle, thirty-two. In ſituation it is the moſt central in the kingdom.

The river *Avon*, croſſing Warwickſhire in a very meandering courſe from the eaſt to the ſouth-weſt, divides it into two portions; of which the northern, and largeſt, was anciently almoſt an entire foreſt; while the ſouthern was a champaign and cultivated country.

The woodland diviſion, though now, for

the moſt part cleared and cultivated, ſtill retains ſomewhat of its wild character, being interſperſed with wide heaths and moors, and ſprinkled with woods. A large tract of it bears the noted foreſt-name of *Arden*. The northern part has a gravelly ſoil; but this changes to clay on advancing towards the middle. The principal ſtream in the north of this county is the *Tame*, which, coming out of Staffordſhire, makes a ſweep acroſs a corner of Warwickſhire; and after receiving ſeveral of its rivulets, and, among the reſt, the *Ankor* at Tamworth, returns at that town into Staffordſhire. Much cheeſe of a good kind is made in this northern part of the county; and it contains coal and limeſtone.

The ſouthern portion, formerly called the *Feldon*, is a tract of great fertility, and very productive of corn. Its chief river is the *Leam*, which joins the Avon near Warwick. *Dunſmore-heath*, between theſe two rivers, now moſtly encloſed, is the ſcene of ſome of the fabulous ſtories related of the famous Guy earl of Warwick.

On

On the borders of Oxfordſhire is a low ridge called the *Edge-hills*. Here was fought in 1642 the firſt pitched battle between the forces of Charles I. and the Parliament, the event of which was indeciſive, each party claiming the victory. Beneath this ridge lies the fruitful vale of *Red-horſe*, extending up into Warwickſhire. On the Northamptonſhire border are ſome ſheep paſtures of excellent quality.

It is ſuppoſed on the whole, that about one fourth of the whole county is under a ſucceſſive round of tillage; and of the remaining three fourths, the greater part is meadow and paſture, and about one fourth of it waſte. Hence Warwickſhire is principally characterized as a feeding and dairy county, and many of its breeds of cattle and ſheep are of a ſuperior kind. There are large woods and much timber of all kinds, eſpecially of oak, in the county, particularly in that part which was the ancient foreſt of Arden; and the woodlands are kept under a regular ſyſtem of management. A con-

ſiderable quantity of flax is grown and manufactured in Warwickſhire.

Warwick, the capital of the county, is an ancient and neat town, ſituated upon a rocky eminence above the Avon, and crowned with a fine caſtle of the earls of Warwick, ſtill inhabited. It is not a place of trade.

The city of *Coventry*, a joint biſhop's ſee with Litchfield, is a large and populous place, frequently mentioned in Engliſh hiſtory. It had very early a great trade in various articles of manufacture; as cloths, ſtuffs, thread, &c. At preſent the principal branch is that of ſilk ribbons, which employs a number of hands. The goods are ſent to London by waggons. Some gauzes are, beſides, made here, and ſome camlets and laſtings. The buildings of this city are in general mean and ancient, and its ſtreets narrow. Here is the head of a canal, intended to join the Staffordſhire grand trunk with the Thames at Oxford.

Nun Eaton, to the north of Coventry, partakes with it in the ribbon manufactory.

But

But this county derives its principal conſequence, as a commercial one, from the town of *Birmingham*, ſituated in a corner of its north-weſtern ſide. For a conſiderable period its hardware manufactures have been noted; but of late years, by great additions to its trade from a vaſt variety of uſeful and ornamental articles, ſuch as metal buttons, buckles, plated goods of all kinds, japanned and paper ware, &c. it has riſen to be ſuperior in populouſneſs to any of the other modern trading towns in England, and has filled the ſurrounding country with induſtrious inhabitants. It is plentifully ſupplied with that important article coals, by means of a canal to Wedneſbury in Staffordſhire; and it has a communication with the great trunk from the Trent to the Severn, by means of a branch paſſing by Wolverhampton. The Birmingham goods are diſperſed about the kingdom, but chiefly ſent to London by land carriage. They are exported in great quantities to foreign countries, where, in point of cheapneſs and ſhow united, they

are

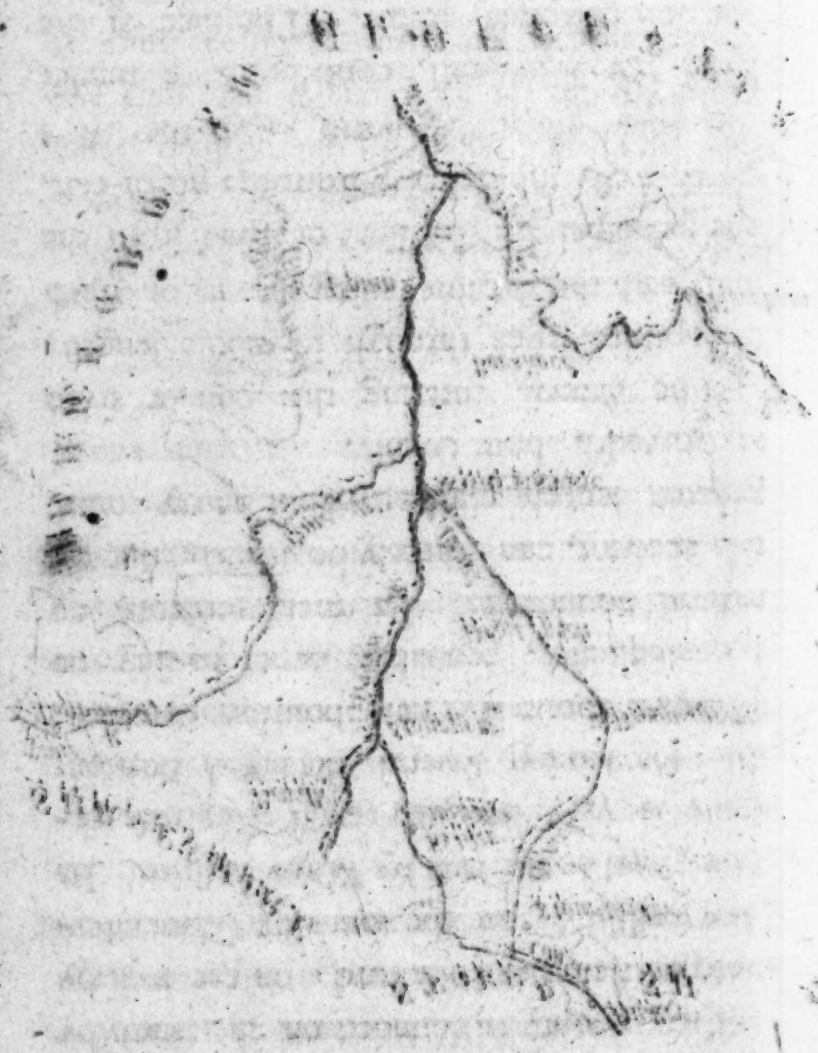
are unrivalled; ſo that Birmingham is become, according to the emphatical expreſſion of a great orator, the *toy ſhop of Europe.*

The improved ſteam engines made here by Meſſrs. Bolton and Watt deſerve, however, to rank higher than toys among the productions of human ingenuity. Their application to various mechanical purpoſes, and particularly to the draining of mines which were before entirely overpowered by water, places them among the moſt valuable inventions of the age.

The town of *Stratford upon Avon* has obtained fame on a very different ground; for here, the pride of Engliſhmen and delight of the theatre,

> —— ſweeteſt Shakeſpear, fancy's child,
> Warbled his native wood-notes wild.

Kenilworth Caſtle, betwixt Warwick and Coventry, was the ſcene of great magnificence in the reign of queen Elizabeth, who was here entertained with all the ſplendour the age could afford, by her favourite, Dudley earl of Leiceſter.



WORCESTERSHIRE.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

This county is bounded on the north by thoſe of Salop and Stafford; on the weſt by Herefordſhire; on the ſouth by Glouceſterſhire; and on the eaſt by Warwickſhire. Its figure is very irregular: and it is remarkable for having ſeveral detached portions ſprinkled about the neighbouring counties; a conſequence, probably, of its having no natural boundaries. Its meaſurements, on this account, can ſcarcely be ſtated; but the greateſt length may be about thirty miles, and breadth about twenty.

The *Severn*, entering this county from Shropſhire, runs through its whole length; and, with the ſtreams falling into it, of which the principal are the *Teme* or *Tend* from the north-weſt, the *Salwarp* from the north-eaſt, the *Stour* from the north, and the *Avon* from the ſouth-eaſt, contributes to render the ſoil extremely fertile. The face of the

country is diverſified with hill and vale. Of the hills, the principal are, the *Lickey* near Bromſgrove in the north, *Aberley* hill in the weſt, the *Malvern* hills in the ſouth-weſt, and the *Bredon* hills in the ſouth-eaſt.

Of the vale in which the Severn runs in this county Dyer thus ſpeaks;

> The vale of Severn, Nature's garden wide,
> By the blue ſteeps of diſtant Malvern wall'd,
> Solemnly vaſt. The trees of various ſhade,
> Scene behind ſcene, with fair deluſive pomp,
> Enrich the proſpect. FLEECE.

Another vale of great fame for fertility and beauty is that of *Eveſham*, on the banks of the *Avon*, which flows along the ſouth-eaſtern part of the county in its courſe to meet the Severn. Beſides the uſual objects of agriculture, great quantities of garden-ſtuff are here grown, and ſent to the towns around to a conſiderable diſtance. In this vale fell Simon de Montfort, with many of his party, under the arms of prince Edward, ſon of Henry III. in the *Barons' war* againſt that king.

The

The products of Worceſterſhire, beſides the common ones of corn and cattle, are fine wool, hops, cyder and perry: the latter, eſpecially, is in great reputation. A large quantity of the whiteſt ſalt is made from the brine ſprings at *Droitwich*, and ſent to Briſtol and other places. The Severn, in this county and Glouceſterſhire, abounds with lampreys, which by ſome are much valued as a delicacy. In the Malvern hills a ſpring riſes, of uncommon purity, which is much reſorted to in ſcrofulous and ſcorbutic caſes.

The capital, *Worceſter*, ſeated on the Severn, is a large and handſome city, inhabited by many gentry, and alſo carrying on a conſiderable trade in the manufacture of woollen ſtuffs and gloves. It has likewiſe a manufactory of elegant china-ware. Here Cromwell, in 1651, obtained what he called his crowning victory over the Scotch army, which had marched into England for the purpoſe of placing Charles II. on the throne. It was after this defeat that

the unfortunate prince underwent ſuch fatigues and romantic hazards in eſcaping from his enemies.

Dudley, which, though encloſed in Staffordſhire, is under the juriſdiction of this county, partakes in the hardware manufactures.

Stourbridge, in its neighbourhood, upon the river Stour, is noted for its glaſs and iron works.

Kidderminſter, on the ſame river, is the principal manufacturing place in this county. Its former trade of ſtuffs has much declined on account of the rivalſhip of the cottons; but the carpet manufactory has greatly increaſed; and this town is the firſt market in England for pile or pluſh carpets, which, for beauty of colours and patterns, exceed any other. Theſe are frequently called *Wilton*, from having been firſt made at that town; but at preſent, by much the greater part are made at Kidderminſter. The worſted-ſhag trade has alſo been introduced here, and employs a good many looms.

looms. The goods go chiefly to Portugal; and their carriage has been much facilitated by the late canal communications.

Stour-port, near Kidderminſter, where the Staffordſhire and Worceſterſhire canal joins the Severn, is a new creation, and, from a plain field, is become in a few years a thriving and very buſy centre of inland water carriage.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

This county is bounded on the north by Worceſterſhire, on the eaſt by Warwickſhire and Oxfordſhire, on the ſouth by Wiltſhire and part of Somerſetſhire, and on the weſt by the counties of Monmouth and Hereford. It ſtretches from north-eaſt to ſouth-weſt to the extent of more than ſixty miles; but never exceeds twenty-ſix in breadth. It is divided into two unequal parts by the *Severn*, which, entering Glouceſterſhire a little above Tewkeſbury, and joined by the current of the *Avon*, haſtens to diffuſe fertility over the ſpacious vale through which it flows.

The lower part of its weſtern boundary (remarkable for the pictureſque ſcenery of its borders) is formed by the *Wye*, which, reaching this county a little below Roſs in Herefordſhire, ſeparates it for the reſt of its progreſs from the county of Monmouth.

Its

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Its ſouth-weſtern extremity is divided from Somerſetſhire by the *Lower Avon*, which, though unequal to the Warwickſhire Avon in the beauty of its ſtream, runs between more romantic banks, and forces its paſſage to the ſea through St. Vincent's rocks, below the city of Briſtol. The tides from St. George's Channel, meeting with the powerful tides from the Atlantic, enter the mouths of the Severn and its tributary ſtreams with a rapid influx; and, rolling on with a lofty head, received from our earlieſt hiſtorians the name of the *Hygra*. Of theſe rivers, the Severn and the Wye abound with excellent ſalmon, which, by means of the flying coaches, find a ready paſſport to the markets of the metropolis.

Glouceſterſhire is naturally divided into three longitudinal ſtripes, or diſtricts, which differ materially from each other.

The eaſtern ſtripe, which is much the wideſt, is called the *Cotefwold*. This is a long tract of high ground, for the moſt part bleak and bare, yet affording in many places

a ſhort fine graſs, for the feed of ſheep, and at preſent principally devoted to the growth of corn.

High Coteſwold alſo 'mong the ſhepherd ſwains
Is oft remember'd, though the greedy plough
Prey's on its carpet. FLEECE.

The native ſheep of this diſtrict were a ſmall light kind, with a very fine but ſcanty fleece. The breed has of late years been improved by mixtures from other counties, with reſpect to weight of carcaſs and quantity of wool, though at the ſame time the wool has been rendered coarſer. It is ſtill, however, in high eſteem as combing wool. Coteſwold is diſtinguiſhed for the cultivation of that excellent artificial graſs, ſainfoin, which is uſed both for paſture and hay.

The ſides of this long range are extremely beautiful as they ſink into the vale, from the hills of *Stinchcomb* and *Nibley* in the ſouth, to that of *Bredon* in the north, which has been celebrated in ancient rhyme. The

Stroudwater

Stroudwater hills form a tract connected with and ſimilar to the Coteſwold, but of a lighter ſoil.

The middle ſtripe is the ſpacious and extenſive vale bordering on the Severn, whoſe fertile paſtures furniſh the kingdom with that cheeſe for which the county is juſtly famous. This vale, communicating with that of *Eveſham* of more contracted dimenſions, has received, for no aſſignable reaſon, the ſame general title.

The weſtern, which is by much the ſhorteſt diſtrict, is wholly varied with hill and dale; and is chiefly occupied by the *foreſt of Deane*, once reckoned the chief ſupport of the Engliſh navy, and which, it is ſaid, the Armada was expreſsly commiſſioned to deſtroy. It is now thinned by frequency of felling, and narrowed by increaſe of cultivation, though a few ſolitary deer ſtill continue to run wild in its receſſes.

The ſtaple commodities of this county are its woollen cloth and its cheeſe. At *Durſley*, *Wotton*, *Painſwick*, *Minchin-Hampton*, and

the neighbourhood, white cloths are chiefly made for the army, and the Turkey and India trades, many of which are dyed in London, but all in the piece. The Glouceſterſhire cheeſe has been reckoned the beſt which the kingdom produces, unleſs we except the Cheſhire, of which the comparative cheapneſs may perhaps be conſidered as a proof of the inferiority. In both theſe articles of trade the county is now ſomewhat on the decline. Its cloth has been ſucceſſfully rivalled in Yorkſhire, and its cheeſe in North Wiltſhire.

Beſides theſe ſtaple commodities, the foreſts of *Deane* and *Kingſwood* abound in mines of iron and coal; of which the coal is principally expended in the internal conſumption of this and the neighbouring counties, and the iron is hammered out in numerous forges, and manufactured for different purpoſes in ſome capital iron works.

The vale and the foreſt of Deane abound in orchards, which are ſuppoſed to occupy the place of ancient vineyards, and which annually produce great plenty of excellent cyder.

cyder. The *Styre*, a kind in great eſteem, is almoſt peculiar to the weſtern banks of the Severn. Some of the perry of this diſtrict is the baſis of moſt of the wine ſold for Champagne in the metropolis. The bacon of this county is alſo in high reputation, and forms a conſiderable article of its domeſtic commerce.

If we enter Glouceſterſhire with the Severn, the firſt object of curioſity at the confluence of that river with the Avon, is the town of *Tewkeſbury*, formerly noted for the excellence of its muſtard, but now only diſtinguiſhed (as to its trade) for a manufactory of cotton ſtockings. But its church, and the ruins of its monaſtery, are moſt worthy of notice; the former of which contains the relics of thoſe who fell at the battle of Tewkeſbury, and, among the reſt, of prince Edward, ſon of Henry VI. who was butchered in cold blood after the engagement. This was fought in 1471, and proved deciſive againſt the Lancaſtrians, who were never afterwards able to make head againſt Edward IV.

Not far from hence is the *iſle of Eight*, in the Severn, where, as ſome ſuppoſe, the ſingle combat between Edmund Ironſide and Canute the Great was terminated by an amicable reſolution of dividing the crown.

As we proceed down the river, at ſome little diſtance to the left, lies the town of *Cheltenham*, noted for it purgative chalybeat ſpring, which has rendered it of late years a place of faſhionable reſort. It is no leſs remarkable for being ſituated in a deep ſand, very rarely to be met with in any other part of the county.

We next approach the city of *Glouceſter*, the capital of the county, which has lately been much improved, and whoſe four principal ſtreets are admired for the regularity of their junction in the centre of the town. A pin-manufactory affords the principal employment to the inhabitants of Glouceſter. It is alſo engaged in the traffic up and down the Severn. A magnificent plan is formed of a canal from hence to the mouth of the Severn, capable of being navigated by veſſels

of conſiderable burthen. A canal is already made from Glouceſter to Hereford, through Ledbury.

Still following the courſe of the river to the ſea, we leave, about ſeven miles to the eaſtward, the town of *Stroud*, built on the ſide of a little ſtream, the properties of which are ſaid to be peculiarly adapted to the dying of ſcarlet. For this reaſon its banks are crowded with the houſes of clothiers; and the rivulet being itſelf inconſiderable, a navigable canal accompanies its progreſs to the Severn. This canal, with great expenſe and labour, is now extending to join the Thames at Lechlade; the head of whoſe noble ſtream lies in the borders of this county about two miles from Cirenceſter, on the edge of the high road between that town and Tetbury.

Cirenceſter was a place of eminence in former days. It is at preſent a great thoroughfare, and one of the moſt conſiderable towns in Glouceſterſhire; though its wool market, for which it was in later times

more peculiarly famous, has gradually dwindled away, as the practice of buying up wool in the country has increaſed. Adjoining to this town is the extenſive park of Lord Bathurſt, which has been uniformly mentioned with commendation ſince the time of Pope, and has certainly received more than its due ſhare of celebrity.

Tetbury is likewiſe a place of ſome importance; but its market for the ſtaple commodities of the county, wool and cheeſe, has of late years ſuffered a gradual decline, like that of its neighbour. The chief ornament of Tetbury is its newly-erected church, built in a ſpirited imitation of gothic models.

Advancing nearer to the Briſtol channel we paſs the towers of *Berkeley Caſtle*, where the unfortunate Edward II. long haraſſed by the miſeries of confinement, was at length inhumanly murdered. This is the direful event alluded to by the prophetic bard, in

The ſhrieks of death thro' Berkley's roofs that ring,
Shrieks of an agonizing king.

GRAY'S BARD.

This caſtle was originally a nunnery; and, in the times of ſuperſtition, the rich *vale* abounded in edifices dedicated to religion.

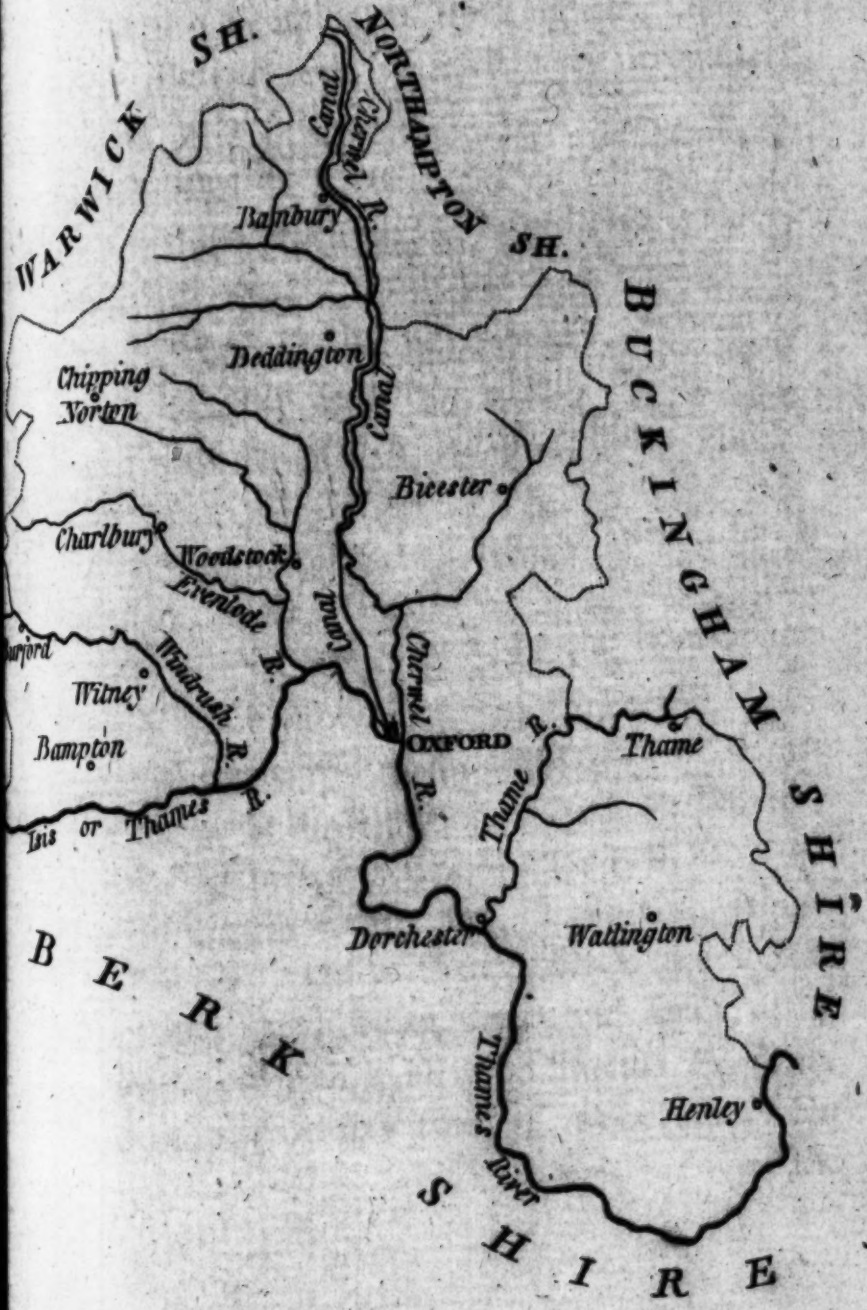
The great commercial city of Briſtol is ſituated partly on the Glouceſterſhire and partly on the Somerſetſhire ſide of the river Avon. Its largeſt portion is within Glouceſterſhire; but as the city, before it was made a county of itſelf, was adjudged to Somerſetſhire, we ſhall take notice of it under that county. The rocks of *St. Vincent* and the *Hot Wells* beneath them, however, belong to the county we are now treating of. In the former are found thoſe native cryſtals ſo well known under the name of Briſtol ſtones. The latter are warm ſprings, of great purity, which have obtained a high reputation in the treatment of conſumptive caſes.

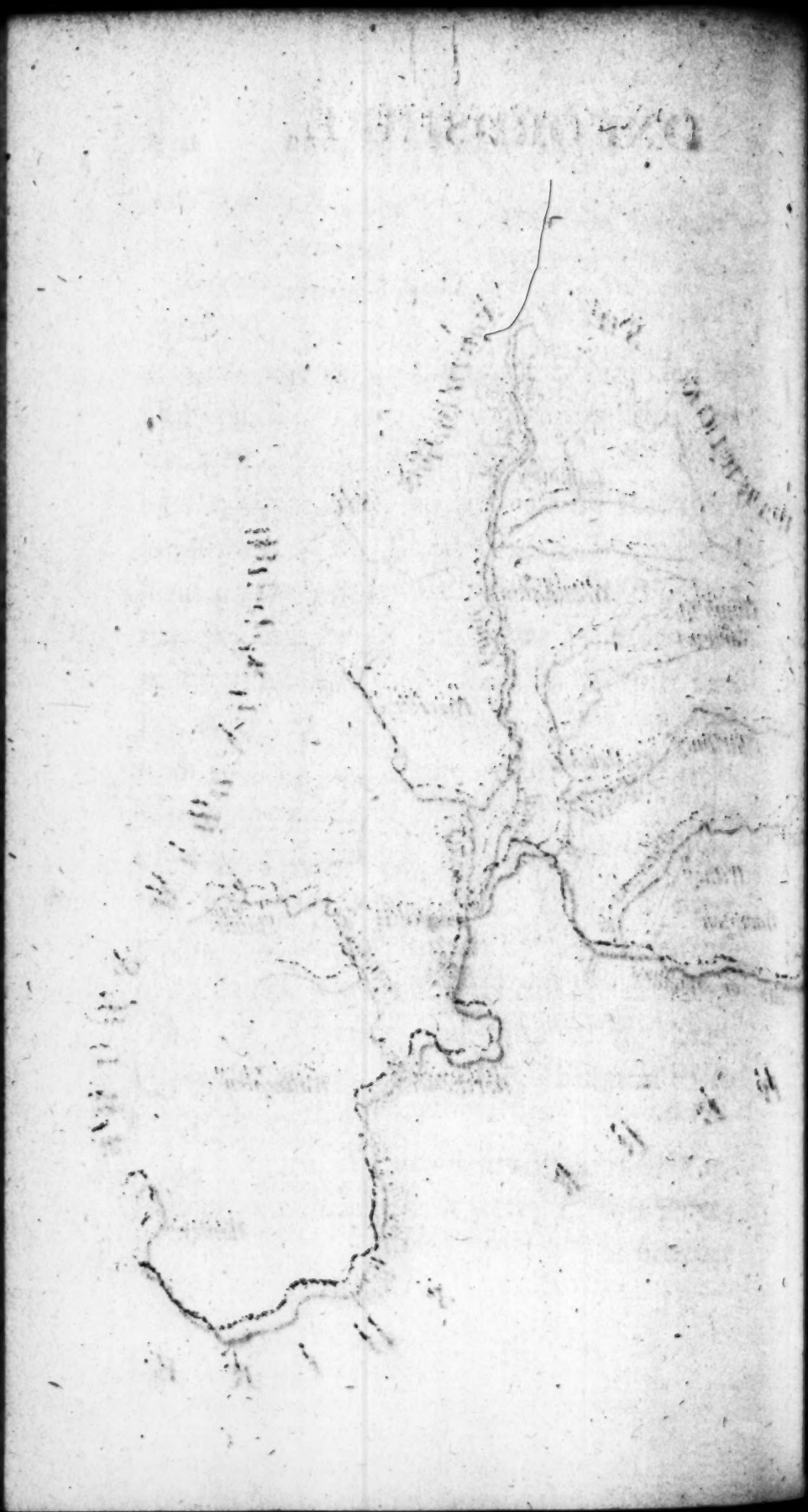
OXFORDSHIRE.

This county on the north is bounded by Warwickſhire and Northamptonſhire, on the weſt by Glouceſterſhire, on the ſouth by Berkſhire, and on the eaſt by Buckinghamſhire. The Thames gives it a natural limit on the whole ſouthern ſide; and indeed the importance of this river is ſhown by no circumſtance more than its ſerving as a boundary to the contiguous counties on each ſide, for almoſt the whole of its courſe. Under the name of *Thames* is here included its principal branch the *Iſis*; for, in fact, the beſt writers aſſert that Iſis is a mere poetical name, not known by the inhabitants of its banks, who uniformly call the principal river the Thames, quite up to its head. Iſis is the ancient name *Ouſe*, common to ſo many rivers, latinized.

The figure of this county is ſingularly irregular, conſiſting, as it were, of two parts; a broader

OXFORDSHIRE.





a broader northern, and narrower ſouthern, with a ſtill narrower neck between the two. The three counties of Buckingham, Oxford, and Berks, each of itſelf very irregularly ſhaped, are ſo fitted to each other, as to form together a pretty regular circular tract. The extreme length of Oxfordſhire is forty-eight miles; its greateſt breadth twenty-ſix.

With reſpect to ſoil and face of country; the northern corner is chiefly ſtrong deep land, partly arable, partly paſture, appropriated to the dairy. South of this is an extenſive tract, the hilly part of which has a ſhallow ſtony ſoil. The bottoms are clayey, and afford good paſture by the ſides of the rivers. The ſouth-weſt corner contains the foreſt of Whichwood, great part of which is woodland. Below it, nearer to the Iſis, the ſituation is low and wet, and the land chiefly meadow and paſture. About Oxford, to the north and ſouth, the ſoil is various, part being light and ſandy, part deep and rich. Near to Stanton St. John is a conſiderable tract of woodland. On the

the banks of the Thame the land is chiefly paſture. Between it and the Chilterns is moſtly arable, bordered by a range of downs. The Chiltern hills form a wide tract, of which the ſoil is chalk mixed with ſome loam and clay, but very full of flints. Much of this is covered with beech woods, but there are large waſtes, and alſo conſiderable encloſures, and ſome vallies of meadow land bordering the Thames.

The middle of the county is watered by numerous ſtreams, running from north to ſouth, and terminating in the Thames. Of theſe the moſt conſiderable are, the *Windruſh*, coming down from Burford and Witney; the *Evenlode*, from the neighbourhood of Chipping-Norton; and the *Cherwell*, which riſing in the moſt northern part of the county, paſſes Banbury, and, after collecting the waters of many rivulets, mixes with the leading ſtream at Oxford.

The *Tame*, commonly ſuppoſed to give name to the Thames, is an inconſiderable rivulet, which, flowing by the town of

Tame,

Tame, bends round to meet the imaginary Iſis above Wallingford.

The products of Oxfordſhire are chiefly thoſe common to the midland farming counties. Its hills yield ochre, pipe clay, and other earths, uſeful for various purpoſes. Corn and malt are tranſmitted from it by means of the Thames to the metropolis. Good cheeſe is made in the grazing parts. In the encloſed parts about the middle, much butter is made, and many calves reared, the veal of which is ſent to London. The greateſt want in this county is that of fuel; for, moſt of the woods with which it once abounded being cut down or greatly diminiſhed, it is neceſſary to ſupply the deficiency of fire-wood with ſea-coal, brought by a long and troubleſome navigation from London. The intended junction of the Thames with the Trent and Merſey, by a canal paſſing through Oxfordſhire, will, in ſome meaſure, remedy this inconvenience, which is ſeverely felt by the poor, the county in general having a cold climate, eſpecially

in

in the north-weſtern diviſion, where the fences are chiefly ſtone.

The great glory of this county is its capital, the city of *Oxford*, containing the largeſt of the two Engliſh univerſities; a ſeat of learning with the reputation of which the whole literary world is ſufficiently acquainted. It conſiſts of twenty-five colleges and halls, many of them buildings of great ſize and magnificence, and very richly endowed. The appearance of theſe edifices, and other public ſtructures, ſome of antique, and others of modern, architecture, diſpoſed in the ſpacious ſtreets of a city of itſelf handſomely built, and finely ſituated, produces an effect ſingularly ſtriking and majeſtic.

Oxford is as renowned a ſeat of loyalty as of erudition; many of our kings having for a time reſided here, and ſummoned hither their parliaments. The unfortunate Charles I. here held his court during the whole civil wars, whence it became a ſort of centre of various military exploits in this

and

and the ſurrounding counties. One of theſe, the ſkirmiſh at *Chalgrave*, near Watlington, in 1643, deſerves to be commemorated, as having coſt the life of that great patriot John Hampden, whoſe firm reſiſtance to the arbitrary meaſures of the court was a principal cauſe of the war.

Witney is a populous town, noted for its manufactory of the fineſt blankets, and other thick woollens, called bear-ſkins and kerſeys. For theſe articles fine wool is brought from Herefordſhire and Worceſterſhire, and coarſe from Lincolnſhire. The goods are all ſent by land to London. The fineſt blankets are exported to Spain and Portugal: the coarſe woollens to Canada and other parts of North America.

Woodſtock, a ſmall town north of Oxford, has a manufactory of ornamental goods in poliſhed ſteel, which employs a few hands; and another of gloves. It was formerly famous for its royal park, in the intricate receſſes of which king Henry II. concealed his miſtreſs, the fair Roſamond. The ſpot

is

is now no leſs celebrated for the magnificent ſeat of *Blenheim*, a gift of the Britiſh parliament to the great Duke of Marlborough, on account of his ſignal victory over the French at Hochſtet, or Blenheim, in Germany.

Banbury, in the northern extremity of the county, is noted for its malt liquor and cheeſe. It has a manufactory of worſted ſhags. Near this place, in 1469, the Earl of Warwick, at the head of the Lancaſtrians, defeated the Yorkiſts, and made Edward IV. priſoner.

At *Hogs* or *Hook Norton*, on the Warwickſhire border, the Engliſh ſuſtained a memorable defeat from the Danes, about the year 914.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

This county is contiguous to Northamptonſhire on the north, Oxfordſhire on the weſt, Berkſhire and a point of Surry on the ſouth, and the counties of Middleſex, Hertford, and Bedford, on the eaſt. Its principal natural boundary is the Thames, which borders its whole ſouthern ſide. The Coln alſo ſeparates it from Middleſex; and other ſtreams take up the boundary in different parts. Its figure tends to a creſcent, but its outline is rendered very irregular by projections and indentations. From the ſouth-eaſtern to the north-weſtern extremity it meaſures upwards of fifty miles, while its greateſt breadth is little more than ſixteen.

The ſouthern part of Buckinghamſhire, beyond the banks of the Thames, is principally taken up with the *Chiltern-hills* and their appendages, compoſed of chalk, and in various parts covered with woods. Some

of its eminences are of conſiderable height, and afford fine proſpects.

Beyond theſe, the rich *Vale of Ayleſbury*, one of the moſt fertile tracts in the kingdom, occupies the middle of the county; and a varied country, riſing into gentle ſand-hills on the Bedfordſhire border, extends over the northern part.

The river *Ouſe*, entering Buckinghamſhire on the weſtern ſide, and then turning northwards, croſſes over at length near the northern extremity, marking its courſe by a tract of rich meadows.

> Here Ouſe, ſlow winding thro' a level plain
> Of ſpacious meads with cattle ſprinkled o'er,
> Conducts the eye along his ſinuous courſe
> Delighted. COWPER'S TASK.

The *Tame*, riſing in Hertfordſhire, croſſes from eaſt to weſt through Ayleſbury vale, in its way to Oxfordſhire.

Several other ſmall ſtreams flow through the county, and are uſeful in turning corn and paper mills.

With reſpect to the products of Buckinghamſhire,

hamſhire, barley is chiefly cultivated in the Chiltern; and great part of the Vale is devoted to the grazing of cattle and feeding of ſheep, which is a ſource of much opulence to the landholders. The dairies are principally employed in making butter for the ſupply of the metropolis. Fine wheat is grown in the uplands. The wood of the hills, chiefly beech, is a conſiderable article of profit both as fuel and timber.

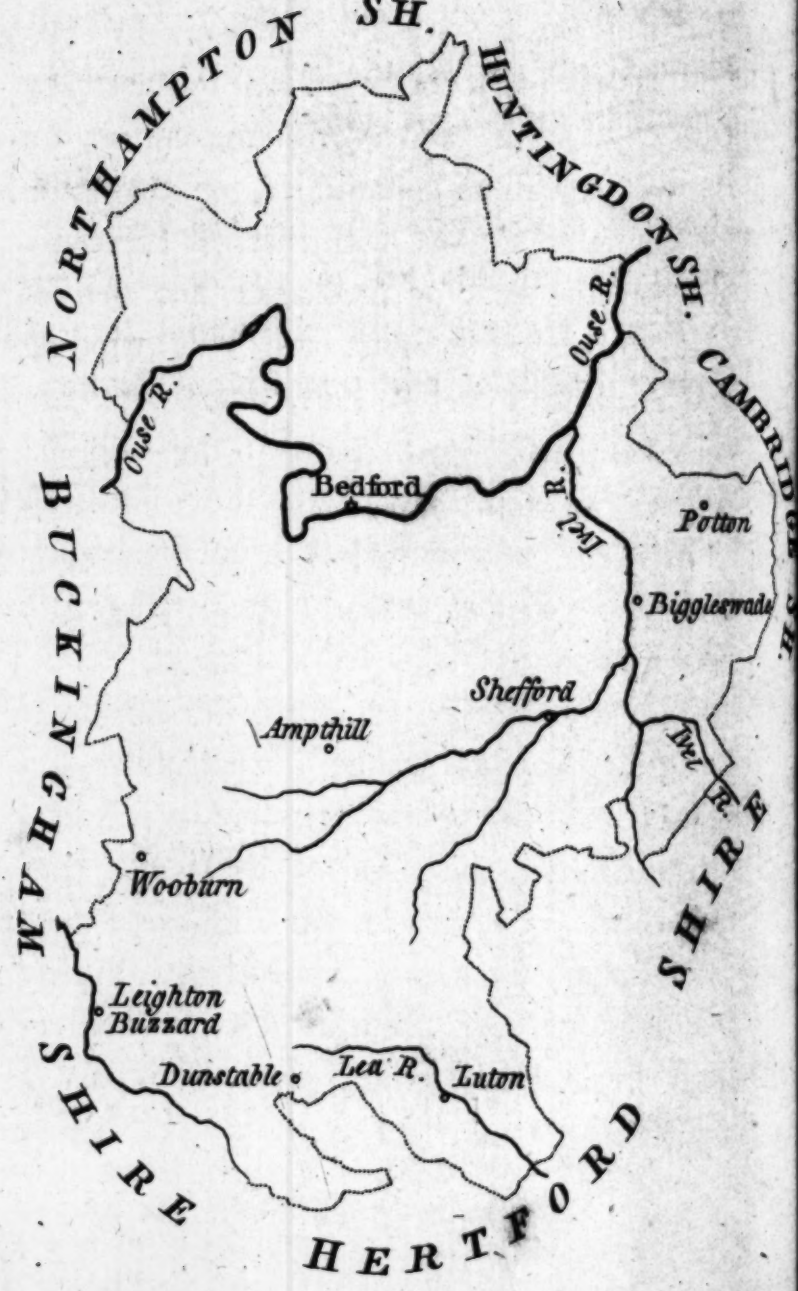
The manufacture of bone-lace is carried on to greater extent and perfection in this county than in any other; particularly in the town and neighbourhood of *Newport Pagnel*, which is a ſort of mart for that article, and flouriſhes conſiderably by its means. The paper manufacture is the other moſt important branch of commercial employment.

Buckingham is a decayed place, of little conſequence. It ſhares the privilege of holding the aſſizes with *Ayleſbury*. This laſt is the moſt populous town in the county, and the centre of the buſineſs of the rich Vale. The inhabitants of this place and

neighbourhood are in poſſeſſion of the art of rearing early ducklings, which is carried to ſuch an extent, that it is ſaid three thouſand pounds have been received at Ayleſbury for the ſupply of the London markets, in ſix weeks, uſually terminating in March.

The village of *Eton*, oppoſite to Windſor, is diſtinguiſhed by its college, or public ſchool, founded by king Henry VI. and the greateſt inſtitution of the kind in the kingdom.

BEDFORDSHIRE.



BEDFORDSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Huntingdonſhire and Northamptonſhire, on the weſt by Buckinghamſhire, on the ſouth by the ſame county and that of Hertford, and on the eaſt by the latter and that of Cambridge. Its limits are very winding and irregular; and its only natural ones are the Ouſe, for a ſhort ſpace, on the eaſt and weſt ſides; and a rivulet on the ſouth-weſt border. The utmoſt length of the county is thirty-five miles, and the greateſt breadth about twenty.

The face of the country in Bedfordſhire is in general varied with ſmall hills and vallies, and affords few extenſive level tracts. On the ſouth, the ridge of chalk hills riſes to a conſiderable height, and frequently projects abruptly into the vallies in a ſtriking manner. Under them is a large tract of hard ſteril land, which gives this part a

dreary and uncomfortable appearance. Yet the chalky earth itſelf is uſed as a manure for other ſoils. From the ſouth-eaſtern corner to the middle of the country runs a line of good dairy land, which is terminated northwards by ſome ſandy hills. The weſtern ſide is for the moſt part flat and ſandy, and well cultivated in the Norfolk mode. Great quantities of beans are grown there. About Woburn, in the ſouth-weſt, are large tracts of deep barren ſand, capable of little improvement but from planting. The northern and eaſtern parts have in general a deep ſoil, which, when cultivated, produces large crops of corn; and is furniſhed with a conſiderable quantity of wood. Indeed the county in general abounds with parks about the ſeats of noblemen and gentlemen. A very large proportion of it is in open or common fields, which is a great diſcouragement to agricultural improvements.

The great river of the county, the *Ouſe*, enters it on the weſt from Buckinghamſhire; and,

and, taking a very winding courſe through fertile meadows, paſſes the town of Bedford, from which it becomes navigable, and makes its exit into Huntingdonſhire. The ſtream of this river is remarkably ſlow, except in time of floods, when it is liable to great inundations.

The Ouſe receives moſt of the ſmall ſtreams of Bedfordſhire, of which the largeſt is the *Ivel*, flowing from the ſouth by Biggleſwade, from whence it is navigable to the Ouſe.

The principal products of Bedfordſhire are corn and butter, much of the former of which is ſent down the Ouſe to Lynn, and of the latter goes to London by land carriage. Some pariſhes are famous for producing large quantities of garden-ſtuff, which ſupply the country round.

The moſt valuable mineral product of this county is fuller's earth, a kind of mixed clay, of great uſe in cleanſing woollen cloth from all oily and greaſy matters. It is dug out of pits in the neighbourhood of Woburn.

Bedfordſhire partakes leſs than moſt parts of the kingdom in the benefits of trade and manufactures. The poor have ſcarcely any other employment than a little lace-making, chiefly on the Buckinghamſhire ſide, which goes to the ſhop-keepers in exchange for goods; and a manufacture of ſtraw-plat made into hats, baſkets, and toys, in and about Dunſtable. Some of theſe hats are exported to Holland.

Bedford, the county-town, is an ancient and tolerably populous place, which carries on a conſiderable trade in coals, timber, malt and corn, by means of its navigable river. It has a great number of poor inhabitants, invited by an eſtate left to the town within the precincts of London, the value of which is become very conſiderable. Their chief employment is lace-making.

Ampthill, a ſmall market-town, is noted for having been the reſidence of Catherine wife of Henry VIII. during the time her unjuſt divorce was in agitation. This event is commemorated by the following elegant

inſcription by Mr. Fitzpatrick, on a column where the old caſtle ſtood:

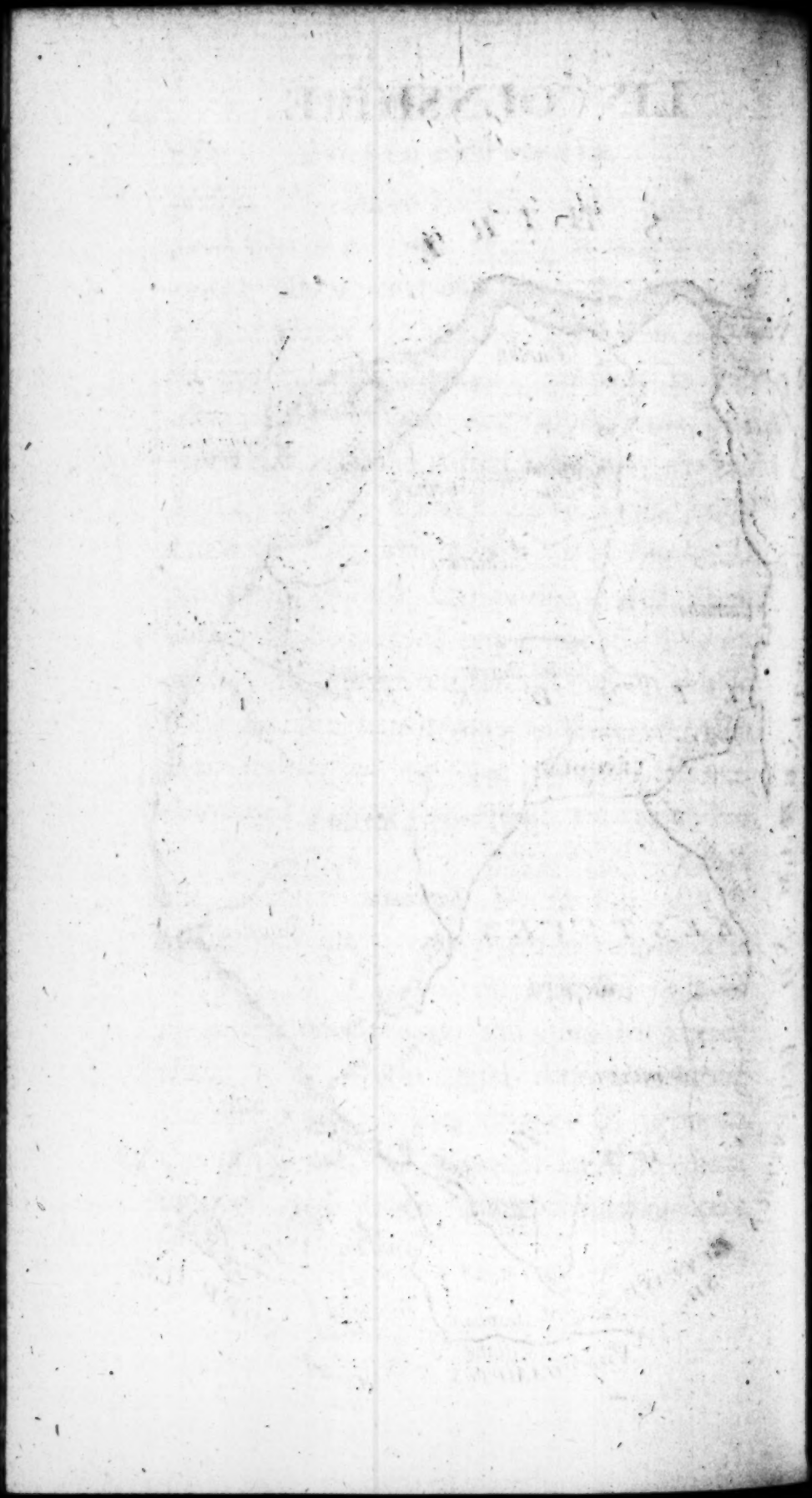
In days of old, here Ampthill's tow'rs were ſeen,
The mournful refuge of an injur'd queen;
Here flow'd her pure, but unavailing, tears;
Here blinded zeal ſuſtain'd her ſinking years;
Yet Freedom hence her radiant banner wav'd,
And Love aveng'd a realm by prieſts enſlav'd;
From Catherine's wrongs a nation's bliſs was ſpread,
And Luther's light from Henry's lawleſs bed.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

THIS great county, the third with reſpect to ſize in the kingdom, is bounded on the north by Yorkſhire, from which it is in great part ſeparated by the Humber; on the eaſt by the German Ocean, by that arm of the ſea called the Waſh, and by a part of Norfolk; on the weſt by the counties of Nottingham and Leiceſter; and on the ſouth by thoſe of Rutland, Northampton, and Cambridge. Its form is oblong, with a hunch or bow jutting into the ſea. Its length is full ſeventy miles, and greateſt breadth forty-five.

Lincolnſhire is divided into three diſtricts; thoſe of *Lindſey*, *Keſteven*, and *Holland*. Of theſe, *Lindſey* is much the largeſt, comprehending all the country from Foſſdike and the Witham northwards. It is, upon the whole, the higheſt part of this county, though without any eminence which deſerves the

LINCOLNSHIRE.



the name of a hill. Towards the north-eaſtern part is a large tract of heathy land, called the *Wolds*, of which the ſouthern portion is well inhabited, but the northern very thin of people. Great flocks of ſheep are bred throughout this tract. The north-weſtern part of Lindſey contains the river-iſland of *Axholm*, formed by the Trent, Dun, and Idle; a rich low tract, in which much flax is cultivated. Beſides the *Trent*, which firſt bounds and then croſſes a corner of this quarter, it has the rivulet of *Ankam*, noted for its fine eels, which empties itſelf into the Humber, and has lately been made navigable for ſloops as far as Glanford-bridge.

The diſtrict of *Keſteven* contains the weſtern part of the county, from the middle to the ſouthern extremity. It poſſeſſes variety of ſoil; but on the whole, though intermixed with large heaths, is a fertile country. The principal of theſe heaths are thoſe of Ancaſter and Lincoln, forming a very extenſive tract, which has however been

been of late years in great part encloſed. A long ridge of high ground abruptly bounds it to the weſtward, beginning near Grantham, and continuing with little interruption, to the north of Lincoln. The chief river of Keſteven is the *Witham*; which, riſing in the ſouth-weſt corner, flows to Lincoln; and, making a ſemicircular ſweep, bends round to join the ſea below Boſton. It is a ſhallow ſtream, abounding greatly in pikes. From Lincoln it has a communication with the Trent, by means of a navigable canal called the *Foſſdike*, cut by king Henry I. and ſtill of great uſe in conveying away the corn, wool, and other commodities of the county.

Part of the fens are in the diſtrict of Keſteven; but the much greater part are in the remaining and ſmaller one of *Holland*, a country in nature as well as in appellation ſimilar to the province of the ſame name in the Dutch Netherlands. It occupies the ſouth-eaſtern quarter of Lincolnſhire, being contiguous to the ſhallow inlet of the ſea

ſea called the *Waſh*. Holland is divided into upper and lower; both of the diviſions entirely conſiſting of fens and marſhes; ſome in a ſtate of nature, but others cut by numberleſs drains and canals, and croſſed by raiſed cauſeways. The lower, or ſouthern, is the moſt watery, and is only preſerved from conſtant inundations by vaſt banks raiſed on the ſea-coaſt and rivers. The air of theſe tracts is bad and unwholeſome; and the water in general ſo brackiſh as to be unfit for internal purpoſes; whence the inhabitants are obliged to make reſervoirs of rain water. In ſummer, vaſt ſwarms of inſects fill the air, and prove a great nuiſance. Yet even here induſtry has produced comfort and opulence, by forming excellent paſture-land out of the ſwamps and bogs, and even making them capable of producing large crops of corn. The fens, too, in their native ſtate, are not without their utility; and afford various objects of curioſity to the naturaliſt. The reeds with which their waters are covered make the beſt of thatch,

thatch, and are annually harveſted in great quantity for that purpoſe. Prodigious flocks of geeſe are bred among the undrained fens, forming a conſiderable object of commerce, as well as for their quills and feathers, as for the bird itſelf, which is driven in great numbers to the London markets. The principal decoys in England for wild-ducks, teal, widgeon, and other fowls of the duck kind, are in theſe parts, and afford the chief ſupplies to the metropolis. Wild-geeſe, grebes, godwits, whimbrels, coots, ruffs and reeves, and a great variety of other ſpecies of water-fowl, breed here in amazing numbers, and obtain plentiful food from the fiſhy pools and ſtreams. Stares, or ſtarlings, during winter reſort in myriads to rooſt on the reeds, breaking them down by their weight. Near Spalding is the greateſt herony in England, where the herons build together on high trees like rooks. The avoſet, or yelper, diſtinguiſhed by its bill, which bends upwards, is found in great numbers about Foſſdike Waſh; as alſo

thoſe

thoſe delicate birds for the table, knots and dottrels.

From the above account of the different diſtricts, it will appear that it is with injuſtice Lincolnſhire in general is reckoned a low and fenny county. In fact, the uplands, open and incloſed, appear on calculation to be near double in extent to the incloſed and open marſhes or fens.

With reſpect to the general products of Lincolnſhire, its higher grounds yield grain of all ſorts in great abundance; and its lower, oats, hemp, flax, woad, and other articles of culture. But it is particularly diſtinguiſhed as a grazing county, and is remarkable for rearing all kinds of animals to the greateſt ſize and weight. Its horſes, horned-cattle, and ſheep, are all of the largeſt breed. The latter are clothed with a long thick wool, peculiarly fitted for the worſted and coarſe woollen manufactures, of which great quantities are ſent into Yorkſhire and other counties.

Lincolnſhire is not itſelf a manufacturing

county

county (at leaſt only in a very ſmall degree), and indeed has declined from its ancient populouſneſs and conſequence. A principal reaſon of this is the ſingular decay of its ſea-ports, which, though formerly numerous, are now almoſt entirely choaked up with ſand, and ſome of them quite deſerted by the ocean. The long bow-like coaſt is fronted by ſand hills or ſalt marſhes; and, like thoſe in the Dutch provinces, ſecured from the waves by dykes: it is ſo low as to be viſible only to a ſmall diſtance from the ſea. The mouth of the Witham is now the ſole inlet fit for the purpoſes of navigation. Here is ſituated the port of the county,

Boſton, a conſiderable, thriving, and well-built town. Its harbour can only admit veſſels of inferior burthen. It has ſome trade to the Baltic, and a great exportation of oats to London. A navigation, partly natural, along the Witham, and partly by canal, goes from hence to Lincoln, at the termination of which, in Boſton, is a large and

and curious ſluice. Another canal is cut to Bourn. The tower-ſteeple of Boſton is one of the moſt lofty and elegant ſtructures of the kind, and is a noted ſea-mark. Some of the beſt grazing grounds in the county lie round Boſton; and, in the new encloſures near it, vaſt crops of oats are grown.

Lincoln, the capital, is an ancient ill-built city, greatly ſunk from its former ſtate, when it was one of the moſt conſiderable places in the kingdom. Its large cathedral is much admired for its inſide architecture, which is in the richeſt and lighteſt gothic ſtyle. The chief trade of Lincoln is in coals, brought by the Trent and Foſſdike. Along the Witham, oats and wool are principally ſent. There is a ſmall manufactory of camlets at Lincoln.

Gainſborough, on the Trent, is a river-port of ſome conſequence, being acceſſible to veſſels of ſize ſufficient to navigate the ſea. It ſerves as a place of export and import for the northern part of the county.

Louth, a handſome well-inhabited town, has a new navigation by means of its brook, the Lud, to the ſea at Tetney creek.

Horncaſtle is noted for its horſe fairs, at which a great number of carriage horſes, bred in Yorkſhire, and kept for ſome time in that neighbourhood, are ſold to the London dealers.

Stamford, ſituated at the moſt ſouthern point of the county, is a large old town, which formerly, for a ſhort time, poſſeſſed an univerſity. The Welland is made navigable from hence.

Spalding, near the mouth of the Welland, from its neatneſs, and the canals in its ſtreets, reſembles a Dutch town. The river here is ſo full of ſhoals, that barges can only get up at ſpring tides. Much hemp and flax is grown in its neighbourhood and ſold in its market.

Crowland exhibits the remains of a very celebrated abbey, founded by religious zeal in the midſt of a ſhaking fen. In general it may be remarked, that the religious edifices

of theſe fenny tracts are remarkably ſtately and handſome ſtone buildings, though there is not a quarry within the ſpace of a great many miles.

The great arm of the ſea called the *Waſh*, or *Waſhes*, is paſſable at low water; but not without ſome danger from quickſands, as was fatally experienced by King John, who, in the Baron's wars, here loſt all his carriages and camp equipage with many men.

Within theſe ſeven years great numbers of ſpinning ſchools have been eſtabliſhed in the ſouthern parts of Lincolnſhire by the patriotiſm of ſeveral perſons of rank, whence conſiderable quantities of worſted yarn are made in the county from wool that uſed to be ſent away unwrought, in the fleece. The ſame perſons have promoted the wearing of ſtuffs manufactured within the county.

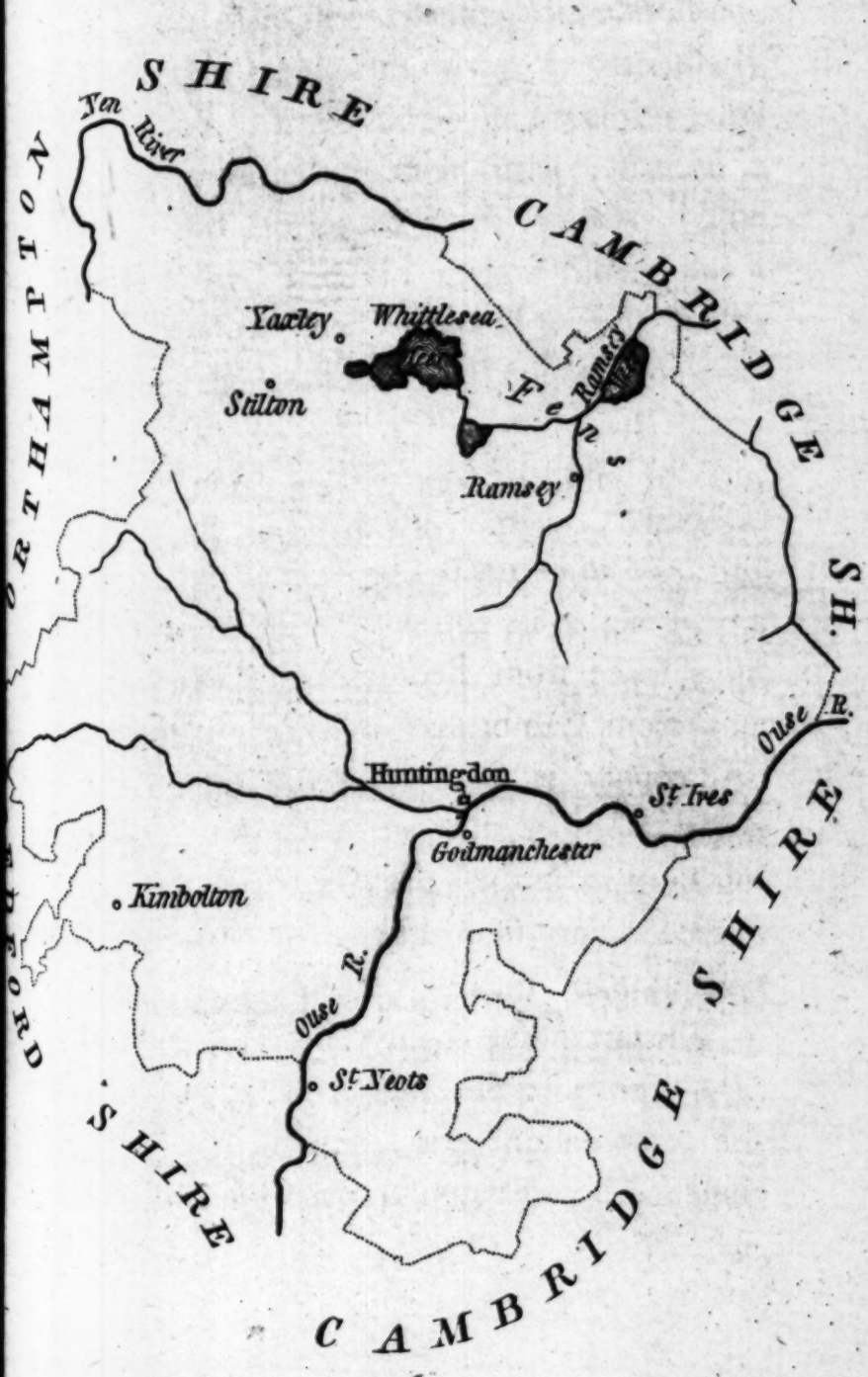
HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

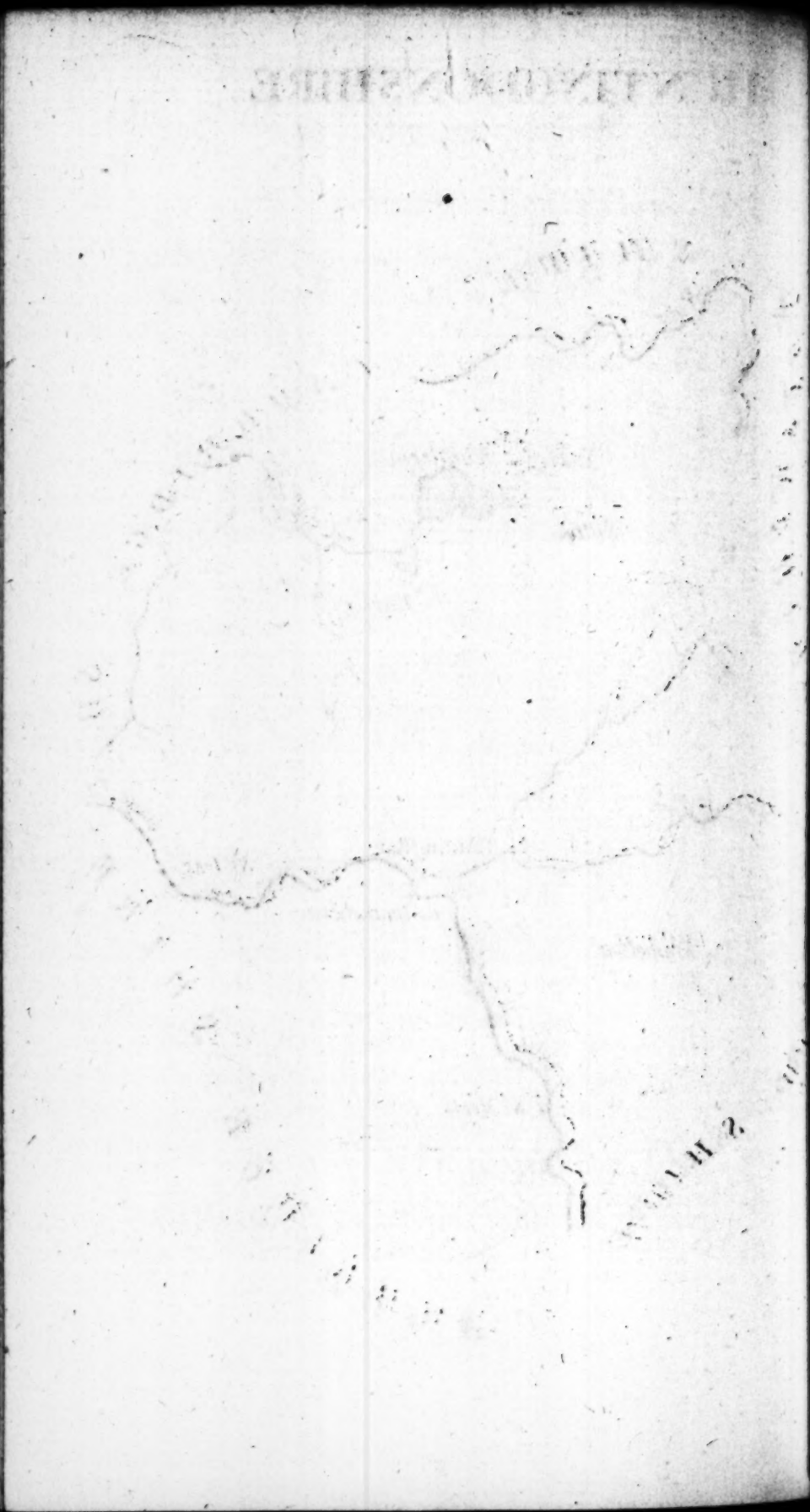
THIS ſmall county is almoſt encloſed by Cambridgeſhire and Northamptonſhire; the former of which bounds it on the north-eaſt and part of the ſouth, the latter on the north and weſt. The remainder is bounded by Bedfordſhire. The river Nen, and the canals, or dykes, joining it to the Ouſe, form its limits on the north and north-eaſt. The Ouſe, at its entrance, ſeparates it for a ſhort ſpace from Bedfordſhire; and, at its exit, from Cambridgeſhire. The figure of this county is ſo irregular as ſcarcely to afford a proper meaſurement; but reckoning from its furtheſt projections, it does not exceed twenty-four miles each way; and, in general, is of much leſs extent.

The face of the country has three varieties. The borders of the *Ouſe*, which flows acroſs the ſouth-eaſtern part, conſiſt of a tract of moſt fertile and beautiful meadows; of which

Port-

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.





Port-holm-mead near Huntingdon, almoſt encloſed by a bend of the river, is particularly celebrated. The middle and weſtern parts are finely varied in their ſurface, fruitful in corn, and ſprinkled with woods. The whole upland part, in ancient times, was a foreſt, and peculiarly adapted for the chaſe; whence the name of the county took its riſe.

The north-eaſtern part conſiſts of fens, which join thoſe of Ely. Part of theſe are drained ſo as to afford rich paſturage for cattle, and even large crops of corn. In the midſt of them are ſome ſhallow pools, abounding with fiſh. The largeſt of theſe is a lake of conſiderable ſize called *Whittle-ſea Meer*. The fen lands are computed at about a fifth of the whole extent of the county.

Huntingdonſhire is a farming county, and poſſeſſes no manufacture but a little wool-ſtapling, and the ſpinning of yarn. Its principal towns are ſituated on the Ouſe.

Huntingdon, the capital, is of moderate

ſize, and neatly built; but has formerly been much more conſiderable than at preſent. It was the birth-place of that very famous and extraordinary perſon, the uſurper, Oliver Cromwell.

Acroſs the river from this town lies *Godmancheſter*, a large village, noted from ancient times for its wealthy farmers.

Saint Ives, lower down the river, is a good market-town, which makes and exports large quantities of malt. Its markets and fairs for live cattle are ſome of the greateſt in England.

At *Ramſey*, on the edge of the fens, was formerly a very rich abbey, built, like that of Crowland, in the midſt of a bog. The ſituation of theſe, and of various other religious houſes (as thoſe of Ely and Thorney) was probably choſen as well with a view to ſecurity from the difficulty of approach, as to the plenty of fiſh and water-fowl inhabiting theſe watery retreats.

Kimbolton-caſtle was the place where Catherine,

therine, the divorced wife of Henry VIII. ended her days in a peaceful retirement.

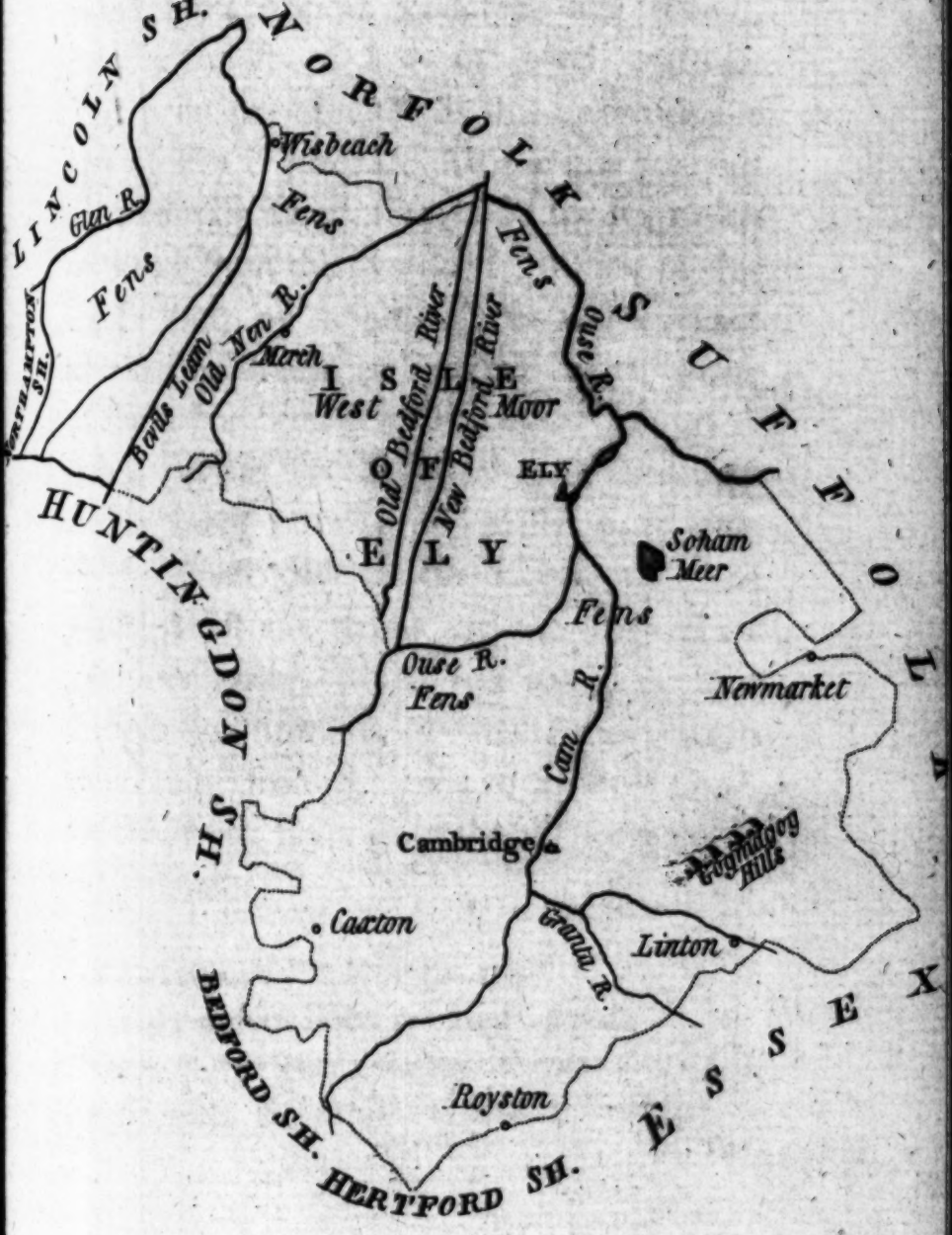
The village of *Stilton* gives name to a very rich and delicate kind of cheese, which, however, is said not to be the product of its neighbourhood, but that of Melton-Mowbray in Leicestershire.

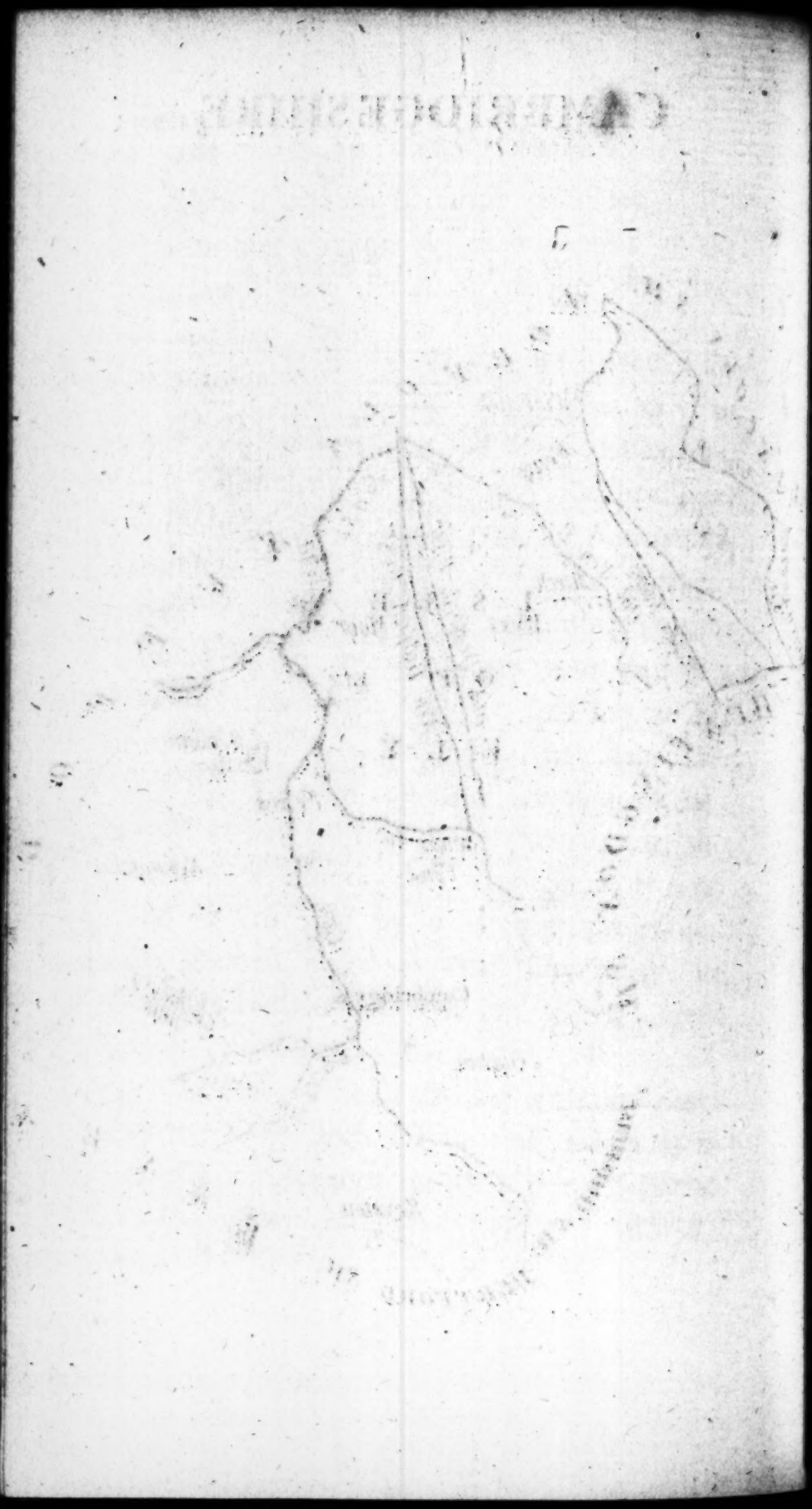
CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THIS county has to the north-weſt Lincolnſhire; to the north-eaſt Norfolk; to the eaſt Suffolk; to the ſouth Eſſex and Hertfordſhire; to the weſt Bedfordſhire, Huntingdonſhire, and a point of Northamptonſhire. Its limits, for all the northern half, are rivers and their communicating branches, ſo intermixed as with difficulty to be traced; the ſouthern half has an indented and undiſtinguiſhed boundary line on the adjacent counties. Its figure ſomewhat reſembles that of the human ear, the county of Huntingdon cutting deeply into its weſtern ſide by a circular projection. Its greateſt length is near fifty miles: its breadth, at the ſouthern and wideſt extremity, above twenty-five.

Cambridgeſhire is divided into two parts by the river Ouſe. The moſt northerly is chiefly compoſed of the *iſle of Ely*, a ſeparate diſtrict,

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.





diſtrict, poſſeſſing juriſdiction within itſelf. This is a fenny tract, in which a few elevated ſpots appear ſcattered, like iſlands, in the midſt of low and level marſhes. The principal of theſe is that on which the city of Ely is placed. All the low grounds are naturally a bog, formed by the ſtagnation of water from the overflowing rivers of this tract; but, by infinite labour and expence in cutting drains and raiſing banks, much of them has been rendered either rich meadows, proper for the fattening of cattle, or arable land, covered eſpecially with ſome of the fineſt oats in the kingdom. The principal of the drains are the *Bedford old and new rivers*, which run navigable in a ſtraight line upwards of twenty miles acroſs the county, from the great to the little Ouſe. Of this work Dyer gives the following poetical account:

——————— *Bedford Level*, erſt
A dreary pathleſs waſte, the coughing flock
Was wont with hairy fleeces to deform;
And, ſmiling with her lure of ſummer-flowers,

The

The heavy ox, vain-ſtruggling, to ingulph;
Till one of that high honour'd patriot name,
Ruſſel, aroſe, who drain'd the ruſhy fen,
Confin'd the waves, bid groves and gardens bloom,
And, through his new creation, led the Ouſe
And gentle Camus, ſilver-winding ſtreams.

FLEECE.

The general nature and products of the Ely fens are the ſame with thoſe of Lincolnſhire, which they join. Their air and water are bad; and though the ſoil is rich, and in dry years very productive, they are ſtill ſubject to frequent inundations; and the farmer is occaſionally liable to loſe all the labour of his year. The fenny country extends ſouth of the Ouſe, and even runs up to the neighbourhood of Cambridge.

The ſouth-weſtern part of the county is the moſt agreeable, being raiſed in its ſurface, and watered by the *Cam*, a ſmall river, riſing in Hertfordſhire, which, after waſhing Cambridge, near which town it receives the *Granta*, falls into the Ouſe above Ely. Much fine barley grows in theſe parts, which

which is malted, and exported in large quantities. *Cottenham*, near Cambridge, is celebrated for a ſort of large thin cheeſes made there and in the neighbouring villages. Its ſuperiority is not owing to any particular management in the dairies, but to the nature of the herbage on the commons. The ſuckling of calves for the London market is alſo carried on there to advantage. The butter of Cambridge is peculiarly excellent.

The ſouth-eaſtern part, from *Gogmagog-hills* to Newmarket, is an open and heathy country, thinly inhabited and bleak, being connected with that vaſt tract of land, which, extending ſouthwards into Eſſex, and northwards acroſs Suffolk into Norfolk, forms one of the largeſt plains in the kingdom. The ſoil here is lean and gravelly. The beſt parts produce light crops of barley; but much of it is only uſed as ſheep-walks. The kinds of ſheep kept here are chiefly the Norfolk and Weſt-country. In ſome of the pariſhes on the borders of Eſſex ſaffron is cultivated. At *Cherry-hinton* at the foot

foot of the Gogmagog-hills, are great chalk pits, noted for the marine productions they contain, and for the many rare plants growing in their vicinity.

Cambridge, the capital of the county, is a populous but ill-built town; rendered however ſufficiently famous by its Univerſity to diſpenſe with other diſtinctions. This ancient ſeminary of learning, inferior in extent and opulence to Oxford, but its rival in literary fame, contains ſixteen colleges and halls, and many public edifices, of antique and modern conſtruction. The numerous objects of curioſity in this Univerſity, and the great characters it has produced, would furniſh ample matter for a volume, and therefore cannot be properly touched upon here.

The town carries on a conſiderable trade by means of its navigable river. Near it is annually held one of the greateſt fairs in England for all ſorts of commodities, called *Stourbridge* or *Sturbich fair*, under the juriſdiction of the Univerſity.

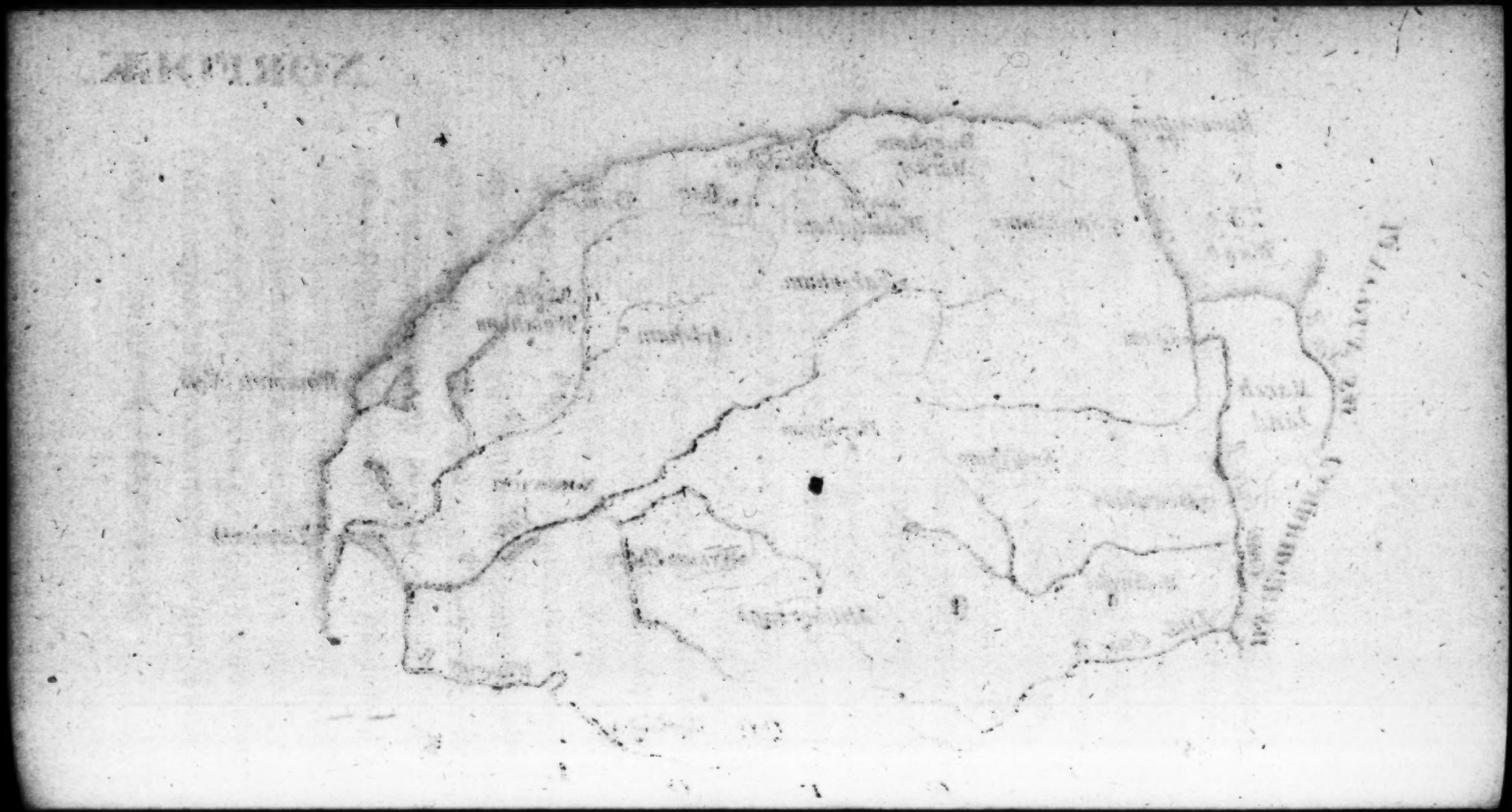
The

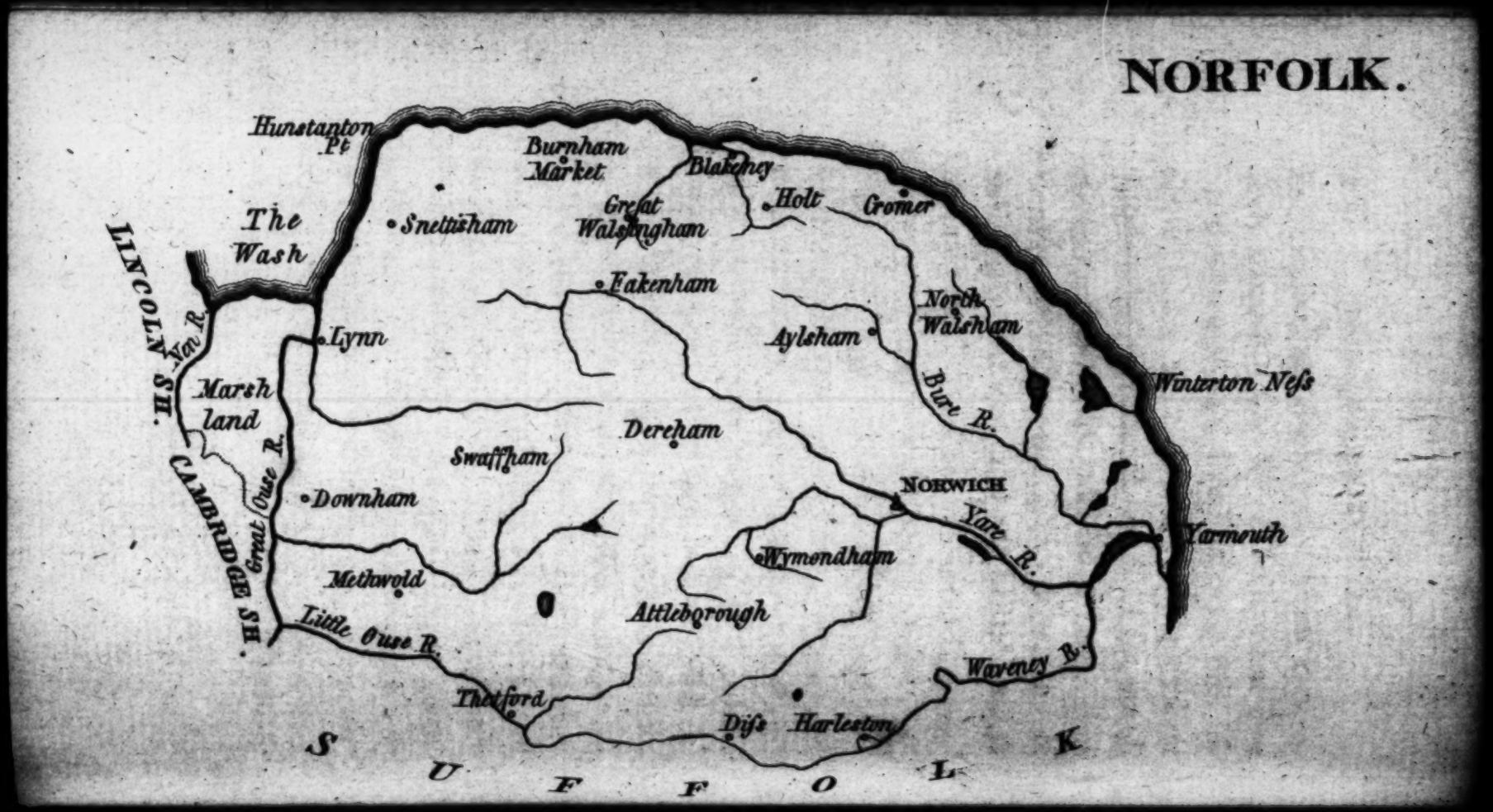
The city of *Ely* is a mean place, and chiefly remarkable for its fine cathedral. The biſhop exerciſes temporal juriſdiction over the city and in the iſle, much in the ſame manner as the biſhop of Durham in his dioceſe. Ely, and its diſtrict, from its ſituation, has frequently held out a long time againſt foreign and domeſtic foes; and particularly was the laſt place in the kingdom which ſubmitted to William the Conqueror. Much garden ſtuff is produced here, and ſent to the towns around. The barley grown around it is of a ſuperior quality. The white bricks made at Ely are celebrated, and a large quantity of coarſe pottery is made of the ſame clay.

Wiſbeach is a well-built town, poſſeſſing a conſiderable trade in the export of corn, and of oil preſſed from ſeeds at mills in its neighbourhood. Only barges can come up its river, larger veſſels ſtopping ſix miles below.

Newmarket, ſituated partly in this county, and partly in Suffolk, is the moſt celebrated place in England for horſe races, for which its

its extenſive and finely turfed heath is peculiarly adapted. Charles II. built a ſeat here for the ſake of this diverſion. At the different ſtables in the town are conſtantly kept numbers of the fleeteſt horſes in the world, trained and exerciſed for the courſe. The farmers around make great advantage of their oats and hay from the demand which this creates.




NORFOLK.
Hunstanton Pt
Burnham Market
Blakeney
Holt
Cromer
The Wash
Snettisham
Great Walsingham
Fakenham
North Walsham
Aylsham
Lynn
Nen R.
LINCOLNSH.
Marsh land
Winterton Ness
Burt R.
Dereham
Swaffham
Great Ouse R.
CAMBRIDGESH.
Downham
NORWICH
Yare R.
Yarmouth
Wymondham
Methwold
Attleborough
Little Ouse R.
Warenty R.
Thetford
Diss
Harleston
SUFFOLK

NORFOLK.

THIS county is terminated on the north and north-eaſt by the German ocean; on the ſouth and ſouth-eaſt by Suffolk, on the weſt by the Lincolnſhire Waſhes, and by part of that county and of Cambridgeſhire. It is almoſt entirely inſulated by the ſea, and by the rivers which form its internal boundary. Its figure is very compact, preſenting an almoſt unbroken convexity to the ocean, and a convex line, ſomewhat indented, to the land; thus forming a pretty exact oval, of which the diameter from north to ſouth meaſures forty-five miles; that from eaſt to weſt about ſeventy.

The face of the country in this large ſpace varies leſs than in moſt tracts of equal extent in the kingdom. Not a ſingle hill of moderate height is to be ſeen in the whole county; yet, in many parts, its ſurface is broken into gentle ſwells and depreſſions.

At

At the weſtern extremity, adjoining the counties of Cambridge and Lincoln, is a conſiderable tract of flat fenny land; and on the eaſt, near Yarmouth, a narrow tract of marſhes runs from the ſea to ſome diſtance up the country. Some marſh land likewiſe lies upon the northern coaſt, near Cley. Several of the weſtern hundreds, from Thetford northwards, are open and bare, conſiſting of extenſive heaths, the ſoil of which is a light ſand or hungry gravel. The reſt of the county in general is arable land, varying in its degrees of fertility. To the north-eaſt, the ſoil is a light ſandy loam, fertile and remarkably eaſy of tillage. The ſouth-eaſt has a moiſter and deeper ſoil. The middle and ſouth abound in clay; and various parts yield chalk and marl. The proportion of arable land is larger than in moſt counties, being computed at two thirds of the whole. The northern and eaſtern parts are all encloſed, and being richer in timber than moſt of the maritime parts of the iſland, afford many cheerful and pleaſant

ſant views, though none very extenſive or romantic.

The products of the county vary according to the ſoil and ſituation. The lighter arable lands produce barley in great plenty, much of which is malted and exported. Wheat is cultivated in the ſtronger ſoils. But the article for which Norfolk is particularly celebrated is turnips, which are more generally grown here than in any other part of the kingdom, and form the baſis of the Norfolk huſbandry. The peculiar excellence of this culture is, that the ground never lies fallow, as the turnips ſerve to prepare it for corn. This root is principally uſed for the fattening of cattle, of which great numbers, bred in Scotland and other parts, are fed in this county for the London and country markets. Crops of clover or other artificial graſſes are generally taken alternately with the turnips. Much buckwheat is alſo grown in the light ſoils of Norfolk, and uſed for feeding ſwine and poultry.

The fenny parts yield great quantities of

butter, which is ſent to London under the name of Cambridge butter. The ſheep of Norfolk are a hardy and rather ſmall breed, and much valued for their mutton. Their wool is chiefly uſed in the Yorkſhire cloths. Great numbers of the lambs are ſold out of the county. Turkeys are reared here to a larger ſize than elſewhere, and form a conſiderable object of profit to the ſmaller farmers. Rabbits are extremely numerous on the ſandy heaths in various parts. This county is likewiſe celebrated for game, eſpecially pheaſants, which abound in ſome manors where they are preſerved, ſo as to prove a great nuiſance to the farmer.

No greater proof of the induſtry and good huſbandry of Norfolk need be produced, than an eſtimate of the value of the ſeveral articles of its own growth which it ſends out of the county. By a calculation as exact as could be formed, the exported grain of various kinds, flour, and malt, are of the annual value of more than £.900,000, and that of the other proviſion articles (reckoning only the profit of *fattening* foreign bred cattle),

cattle), and of the wool, is about £.225,000 more. The value of manufactures and fiſheries is not included in this eſtimate. It is moreover to be conſidered that the county in general is far from being naturally one of the moſt fertile.

The principal rivers of Norfolk are, the *Great Ouſe*; which, after forming a part of its ſouth-weſtern boundary, croſſes the weſtern ſide, and falls into the ſea below Lynn:

The *Nen*, forming the weſtern boundary, and emptying into the Lincolnſhire Waſh. It communicates by ſeveral channels with the Ouſe.

The *Little Ouſe* riſes about the middle of the Suffolk border; and ſeparating the two counties as it flows weſtward, empties itſelf into the Great Ouſe. It is navigable from Thetford.

The ſource of the *Waveney* is ſeparated from that of the Ouſe only by a cauſeway. It runs in a contrary direction; and, forming the reſt of the Suffolk boundary, at length

joins the Yare a little above Yarmouth. It is navigable from Bungay.

The *Yare*, riſing near Attleborough, joins the *Wenſum* and other ſmall ſtreams at and near Norwich, and, becoming navigable there, flows to Yarmouth; and, having received the Waveney and Bure, diſcharges itſelf into the German ocean below that town.

The *Bure*, joined by other ſtreams from the north-eaſt, meets the Yare in Yarmouth. It is navigable up its ſeveral branches to Aylſham, North Walſham, and other places.

Of theſe ſmall rivers it may be obſerved, that, flowing through a nearly level country, their ſtreams are ſlow, and they frequently diffuſe themſelves over the lower tracts in their courſe, forming ſhallow lakes, here called *Broads*, which are plentifully ſtored with fiſh and water-fowl. On ſome of them are decoys for wild-ducks. The rivers are eaſily rendered navigable, and much reſemble canals.

The ſea-coaſt of Norfolk is formed either

by clayey cliffs, continually a prey to the ocean, or by low ſandy ſhores, covered with looſe pebbles (called *ſhingle*) and frequently riſing into a kind of natural bank compoſed of ſand held together by the root of the ſea-reed-graſs. Behind theſe ſand hills are in various parts ſalt marſhes of conſiderable extent, occaſionally inundated by the tides, which find entrance through gaps between the hillocks. *Hunſtanton cliff* at the mouth of the Waſh, is the only rocky eminence on the coaſt. Various ſmall ports are made on the northern ſide by creeks and little bays, but they can only admit ſmall veſſels, and are continually filling up with ſand. Banks of ſand lie off at ſea from the Norfolk coaſt in various parts, which are the dread of the coaſting mariners, and occaſion frequent ſhipwrecks. Of theſe, the moſt remarkable, running parallel to the coaſt of Yarmouth, form the celebrated *Yarmouth roads*, a great reſort for ſhipping, which ride there ſecurely, though the entrance is difficult and hazardous.

The county of Norfolk has long been one of the beſt peopled tracts in England, which is proved by the number of its pariſhes, exceeding that of every other county in the kingdom, though in ſize it is only about the eighth. Its large towns, however, are few, as its manufactures and trade are confined to a ſmall ſpace.

The city of *Norwich* is one of the moſt populous in England, and long took the lead in point of conſequence among the inland towns. For this it was indebted to its great manufactory of crapes, bombazines, and ſtuffs of various kinds, which is ſtill conſiderable, though ſomewhat declined on account of the rivalſhip of the cotton branches, and in conſequence of prohibitions in foreign countries. The manufacture is confined to the city; but the operations of ſpinning and preparing the wool employ the poor of moſt of the ſmall towns and villages in the county. The wool uſed is brought from the counties of Lincoln, Leiceſter, and Northampton. The goods are ſent to various

ous parts of the world, particularly Holland, Germany, Ruſſia, and the Mediterranean. Many of them are ſhipped at Yarmouth; and many are ſent to London and other places by land. Norwich contains many opulent inhabitants and good buildings, but its ſtreets are narrow and ill diſpoſed. It abounds with pariſh churches, and has ſeveral remains of antiquity, though not of an early date.

Yarmouth has long been known as one of the principal ſea-ports in England; and though from the fluctuation of trade ſeveral newer ones have outſtripped it in buſineſs, it ſtill retains conſiderable conſequence in its double capacity of a port and a fiſhing town. By means of its rivers it enjoys all the import and export trade of Norwich, and various places on that ſide of Norfolk and Suffolk. To them it conveys coal, timber, and foreign products; and by its means are exported their corn and malt in vaſt quantities, and their manufactured goods. Its harbour will not admit ſhips of

large burthen, but is extremely convenient for buſineſs, the veſſels lying in the river along a very extenſive and beautiful quay. The foreign trade of this port is chiefly to the Baltic, Holland, Portugal, and the Mediterranean. It alſo ſends ſhips to the Greenland fiſhery. The home fiſhing is carried on at two ſeaſons; that for mackerel in May and June, and that for herring in October and November. The latter is the moſt conſiderable; and, beſides the boats belonging to the town, many cobles from the Yorkſhire coaſt, hired for the purpoſe, are employed in it. The mackerel are ſent either up the country by land carriage, or to London by ſea. The herrings are chiefly cured here by ſalting and then drying in wood ſmoke; when, under the name of *red herrings*, they are either conſumed at home, or exported to Spain, Italy, and other ſouthern countries. Yarmouth is much frequented in the ſeaſon as a place for ſea-bathing.

The other great inlet and outlet to this county

county is *Lynn*, or *King's Lynn*, at the mouth of the Ouſe, a populous and flouriſhing place, which, notwithſtanding a bad harbour, carries on a large trade by means of its inland communications. By the Ouſe, and its aſſociated rivers, it ſupplies moſt of the midland counties, with coals, timber, and wine; and in return exports corn and malt in very great quantities. It alſo partakes in the Greenland fiſhery. Its annual *mart*, or fair, is much reſorted to by the country round. The air of Lynn is unwholeſome on account of its vicinity to the fens.

The ports on the northern ſide of the county are *Blakeney* and *Cley*, on the ſame creek, and *Wells* at a ſmall diſtance. From theſe are exported conſiderable quantities of corn and malt produced in the neighbourhood, and coals and other articles are imported.

Thetford, now an inconſiderable town, was once a biſhoprick, and ſtill exhibits the ruins of its former greatneſs. It has ſome corn trade to Lynn. Upon the wide naked heaths

heaths in its neighbourhood are ſometimes to be met with flocks of the buſtard, a bird now become very rare in England.

This county, with the eaſtern ones in general, was the ſcene of many military tranſactions and ravages in the times of the Daniſh incurſions; but had fortunately little ſhare in the diſaſtrous events of more modern times. One of its moſt remarkable occurrences in the later reigns was the inſurrection of the oppreſſed peaſants headed by one Kett, in the time of Edward VI. This roſe to ſo formidable a height, that an army was found neceſſary to quell it, which defeated the inſurgents with great ſlaughter on Mouſehold heath, near Norwich.

NORFOLK
SUFFOLK
CAMBRIDGESH.
E
Yarmouth
Lowestoffe
Little Ouse R.
Brandon
Beccles
Bungay
Wayney R.
Mildenhall
Halesworth
Bottesdale
Eye
Blyth R.
Southwold
Lark R.
Ixworth
Dunwich
Bury St Edmunds
Mendlesham
Debenham
Saxmundham
Newmarket
Woolpit
Framlingham
Stow Market
Alde R.
Orwell R.
Needham
Aldborough
Lavenham
Woodbridge
Deben R.
Orford
Clare
Bildeston
Haverhill
Stour R.
Sudbury
Brett R.
Hadleigh
Ipswich
Nayland

SUFFOLK.

This county has on the north Norfolk; on the eaſt the German ocean; on the ſouth Eſſex; on the weſt Cambridgeſhire. The rivers Waveney and Little Ouſe form its northern limits; and the Stour, almoſt the whole of its ſouthern. To the north-weſt it is bounded by the Larke and another ſmall ſtream; the reſt of its weſtern limit is undiſtinguiſhable. In ſhape it is ſomewhat like a creſcent, being hollowed in the middle of its northern ſide by Norfolk, and riſing at each end of that ſide, eſpecially the eaſtern, where it forms a hook running up to Yarmouth. Its diameter from north to ſouth is about thirty miles; from eaſt to weſt fifty-eight.

Suffolk is in general a level country, without any conſiderable eminences. In reſpect to ſoil it may be divided into three portions. The ſea-coaſt, to ſome diſtance inland, is for

for the moſt part ſandy, and is diſtributed into arable land, heaths, and marſhes. The arable produces excellent barley; and towards the ſouth-eaſt great quantities of carrots are grown. The heaths afford extenſive ſheep-walks; and the marſhes feed numbers of cattle. The ſoil has in many parts been much improved by ſhell-marl, (called here *crag*) of which vaſt beds have been diſcovered, particularly in the neighbourhood of Woodbridge. The ſea ſhore is chiefly compoſed of loamy cliffs, which are continually falling down, undermined by the waves. Hence great changes have been effected on this coaſt; and ſome towns, once conſiderable, as *Dunwich* and *Aldborough*, have been almoſt waſhed away by the ſea. About Orfordneſs there are various ſalt-water creeks and inlets, which form extenſive marſhes.

The internal and largeſt part of the county, from north to ſouth, and acroſs quite to the ſouth-weſt angle, is in general a ſtrong clayey loam, fertile to a great degree in all the

the objects of huſbandry. A part of it, called *high Suffolk*, has a ſoil ſo ſtiff and tenacious, that its roads in wet ſeaſons are ſcarcely paſſable. The great product of this tract is butter, which is exported to London and other parts in great quantities. Much cheeſe too is made here; but, as it is only ſupplementary to the butter, it has gained, almoſt proverbially, the character of the worſt in England. Beſides grain of all ſorts, beans are grown abundantly in the middle parts of Suffolk; and quantities of cabbages are raiſed for the food of cows. Hemp is likewiſe cultivated to a conſiderable extent, and ſpun and woven on the ſpot into cloth of various degrees of fineneſs. Some hops are grown in the vicinity of Stow-market.

The north-weſtern portion of Suffolk is an open ſandy country, and forms a conſiderable part of the wide tract of barren heath which occupies ſo much of this quarter of the kingdom. It is chiefly in warrens and ſheep-walks, but interſperſed with poor arable

arable land. The extreme angle, bordering on the Ely fens, partakes of their nature.

On the whole, this county is one of the moſt thriving with reſpect to agriculture, and its farmers are opulent and ſkilful. The culture of turnips prevails here almoſt as much as in Norfolk. They have a very excellent breed of draught horſes, middle ſized, and remarkably ſhort-made, capable of vaſt exertions. The Suffolk cows are ſuppoſed to give more milk in proportion to their ſize than any other in England. They are of the hornleſs or polled kind. The ſheep, of which large flocks are kept, are chiefly of the Norfolk breed.

Of the rivers in Suffolk, the *Waveney* and *Little Ouſe* have been mentioned under Norfolk.

The *Stour* on the ſouthern boundary is the moſt conſiderable, riſing on the weſtern border, and, after paſſing Sudbury and Manningtree, falling into the ſea at Harwich. Juſt at its mouth it meets the *Orwell*, an arm of the ſea running up to Ipſwich; at

at which town it receives the *Gipping*, a ſmall river riſing in the centre of the county, above Stow-market.

The *Deben* riſes near Debenham, and flows to Woodbridge, where it expands into a long narrow arm of the ſea, and enters the ocean a very little to the north of Harwich-haven.

The *Larke*, riſing in the ſouth-weſt, runs by Bury, becoming navigable a mile below that town; and, paſſing Mildenhall, joins the Great Ouſe near the north-weſt angle of the county.

Suffolk was formerly as diſtinguiſhed for its trade and manufactures, as for its agriculture; but theſe have for many years been on the decline.

One of the firſt ſeats of the Flemings, who were brought over by Edward III. to teach the Engliſh the art of manufacturing their own wool, was *Sudbury*; and the town, in conſequence, became very populous and opulent. Its trade is now in great part diverted into other channels, having left behind it the burthen of a numerous poor.

However,

However, many kinds of thin ſtuffs are ſtill made here; particularly ſays, bunting for navy colours, and burial crapes. Some of the neighbouring towns, eſpecially *Needham-market* and *Lavenham*, participate in this manufacture; and the poor throughout the whole county are employed in making worſted yarn. The manufactured goods are chiefly ſent to London.

Ipſwich, the county town, is a place of great antiquity, but declined from its former conſequence. Its manufactures of broad cloth and canvas are at an end; and its preſent commerce chiefly depends upon the malting and exportation of corn. It has a conſiderable coaſting trade and a ſmall ſhare of foreign commerce, and has lately ſent ſhips to Greenland. Veſſels of large burthen are obliged to ſtop ſome diſtance below the town. Ipſwich is populous and well inhabited, though irregularly built.

Woodbridge is a ſmall port, poſſeſſing a ſhare of the coaſting trade. Fine ſalt is made here; and much lime is burned from foſſil ſea-ſhells.

Southwold

Southwold alſo makes a ſalt much eſteemed, and has an exportation of corn. Its bay, commonly called Solebay, was the ſcene of a great ſea-fight in 1672, between the Dutch commanded by De Ruyter, and the Engliſh by the Duke of York, in which victory remained undecided.

Loweſtoffe, built on a cliff above the ſea at the moſt eaſterly point of Great Britain, largely partakes with Yarmouth in the mackerel and herring fiſheries; and is conſiderably frequented as a place for ſea-bathing. A manufactory of coarſe china is eſtabliſhed here.

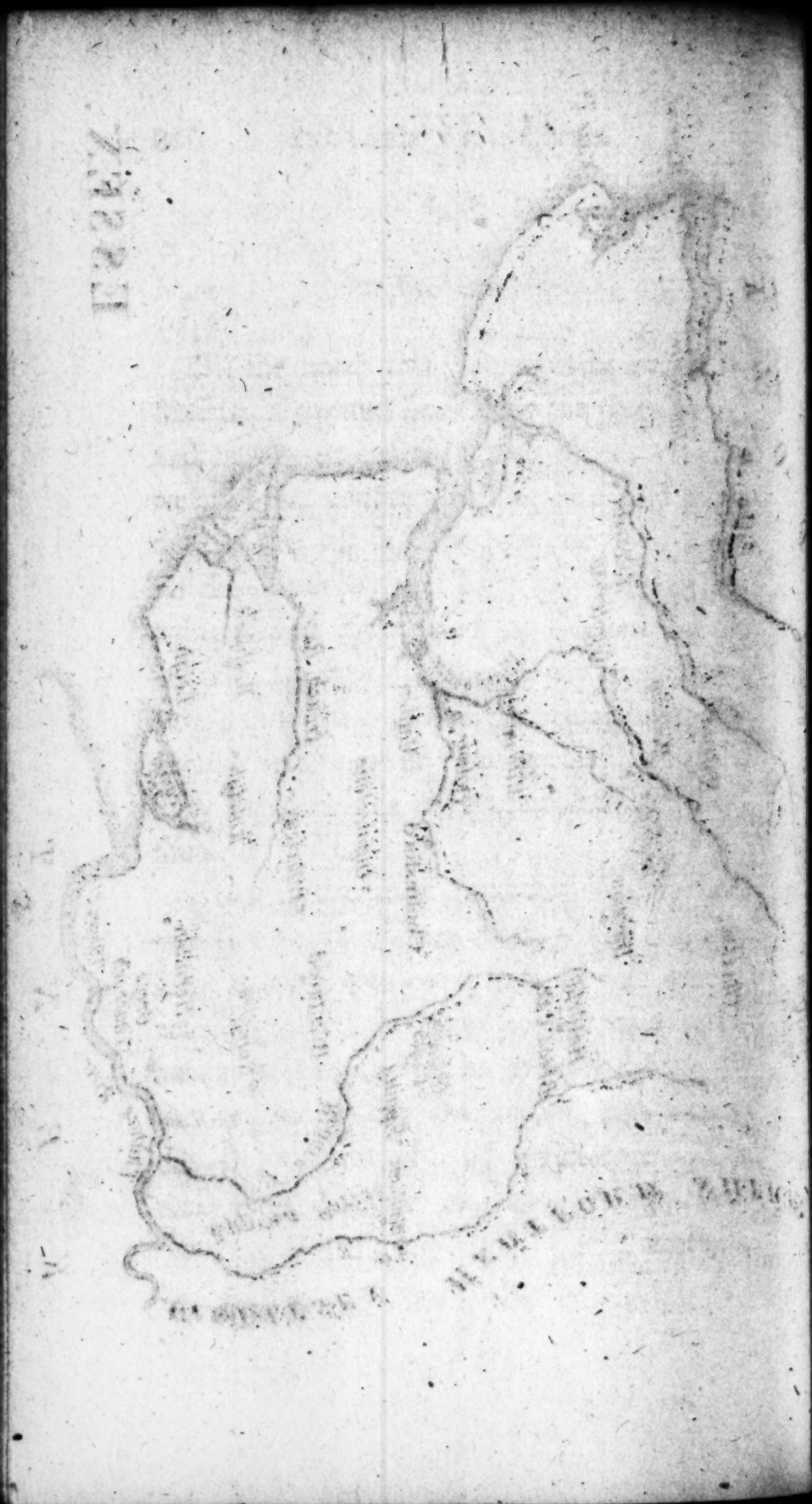
On the weſtern ſide of the county lies the handſome town of *St. Edmund's Bury*, a ſort of capital to the many genteel families reſiding in that neighbourhood. It is a place of great antiquity, and poſſeſſed an extremely wealthy abbey, of which ſome fine remains are yet extant. The preſent trade of Bury conſiſts in making worſted yarn. It has a great annual fair, at which large quantities of various commodities are ſold.

ESSEX.

On the north this county is bounded by Suffolk, ſeparated from it by the river Stour, and by a part of Cambridgeſhire; on the weſt by the counties of Hertford and Middleſex, the laſt ſeparated by the river Lea; on the ſouth by the Thames, flowing betwixt it and Kent; and on the eaſt by the ocean. Its figure is irregularly quadrangular: its maritime ſide in particular being indented and uneven. Its greateſt length is forty-eight miles; its greateſt breadth fifty-four.

Eſſex is the moſt ſouthern of the three counties on the eaſtern coaſt, which together form a tame continued tract of vaſt extent, undiſtinguiſhed by any conſiderable eminence or ridge, but in general ſufficiently elevated to be dry and arable, and rich in the various products of agriculture. The road from London to Norwich by Newmarket,

Saffron Walden
Sudbury
Thaxted
Halsted
Colne R.
Stour R.
Manningtree
Harwich
Bocking
Braintree
Dunmow
Colchester
Coggleshall
Naze Pt
Hatfield Broad Oak
Witham
Blackwater R.
Mersea
Chelmer R.
Chipping Ongar
Chelmsford
Maldon
Waltham
Epping
Lea R.
Ingatestone
Roddon R.
Brentwood
Billericay
Crouch R.
Epping Forest
Romford
Raleigh
Rochford
Hornden
Leigh
Canvey Isl.
Grays Thurrock
Thames River
Tilbury Ft
MIDDLESEX
HERTFORD SHIRE
ESSEX.
K E N T



market, which paſſes along the weſtern ſides of Eſſex and Suffolk to the middle of Norfolk, a diſtance of one hundred and eight miles, is more level and unvaried in its ſurface than any tract of ground of equal length in the kingdom.

Eſſex poſſeſſes, however, a variety of ſoil and face of country. Its ſouth-weſtern part is chiefly occupied by *Epping-foreſt* and its ſeveral branches. A rivulet, the *Roddon*, running parallel to the Lea, fertilizes this part of the county, which is famous for its butter, ſold for a high price in London under the name of Epping butter.

Northwards the country becomes more open and uneven. *Saffron Walden*, in this part, by its name, ſhows the product for which it is famous. Saffron, which was formerly cultivated in various parts of the kingdom, is now grown almoſt ſolely between this place and Cambridge, in a circuit of about ten miles. A rich light ſoil and dry country is peculiarly adapted to this plant. The Engliſh ſaffron has always been in high eſtimation.

Another ſingular product of this county is a kind of treble crop of coriander, carraway, and teazle; the two former on account of their aromatic ſeeds; the latter, for its prickly heads, uſed for the purpoſe of raiſing the nap in woollen cloths. Theſe are all ſown together, but come to maturity at different periods, and the ſucceſſion of the whole crop laſts three or four years.

The middle of Eſſex is in general a fine corn country, varied with gentle inequalities of ſurface, and ſprinkled with woods. Towards the ſea-coaſt it gradually declines into marſhy grounds, broken by arms of the ſea into iſlands, and frequently inundated. The fine paſturage which theſe tracts (commonly called the *Hundreds of Eſſex*) afford, ſcarcely compenſates for their unwholeſomeneſs, which is in a manner proverbial. The banks of the Thames, from the entrance of the Lea to the ſea, are a ſimilar tract of marſhes. The farms in theſe parts are very large, and the farmers rich, and induſtrious to improve their grounds by

by manuring with chalk, brought by ſea from Kent. Numbers of calves are brought from all theſe parts of Eſſex to the London markets.

The northern part of the coaſt, between the Stour and Coln, which projects further than the reſt, is a more elevated and healthy country. The proportion of waſte land in the whole of Eſſex is very ſmall; and the variety and goodneſs of its agricultural products are not exceeded by thoſe of any other part of the kingdom.

The principal rivers properly belonging to this county are, the *Coln*, riſing near Clare in Suffolk; and, after paſſing Colcheſter, emptying into a creek of the ſea between Merſey iſland and the main. In the ſalt-water inlets and pools at the mouth of this river are bred the famous Colcheſter oyſters, ſo well known as an article of commerce and luxury.

The *Black-water* takes its riſe near Saffron Walden, and, flowing by Coggleſhall and Witham, diſcharges itſelf at Maldon into an arm of the ſea.

The *Chelmer*, ſpringing near the ſame place, winds through the middle of the county, and, paſſing by Chelmsford, terminates at Maldon in the ſame mouth with the former.

The *Crouch*, after a ſhort courſe on the ſouth-eaſtern ſide, mixes with the ſea among the marſhes of Burnham and Foulneſs iſle. The Walfleet and Burnham oyſters are the product of its creeks and pits.

The *Roddon*, which enters the Thames near Barking, has been already mentioned.

The principal harbour on the Eſſex coaſt is that of *Harwich*, ſituated on a tongue of land oppoſite to the united mouths of the Stour and Orwell. It affords an occaſional ſhelter to the coaſting fleets continually paſſing along theſe ſhores, but has not much trade of its own. The principal buſineſs of Harwich ariſes from its being the ſtation of the Holland packets which ſail between it and Helvoetſluys. It has alſo a dock for the building of men of war. The entrance of the harbour is defended by a ſtrong fortreſs

treſs called *Landguard-fort*, built on a ſandy point on the Suffolk ſide of the water.

South of Harwich is the *Naze*, a hooked promontory, encloſing a few low iſlands. From hence the land declines weſtward, forming the funnel, which terminates in the mouth of the Thames. Beſides the creeks already noticed, there is one within the mouth of the Thames, running up by the town and ſmall port of *Leigh*, and forming *Canvey* iſle.

Chelmsford, the county town, is a place of moderate ſize, but containing nothing remarkable. The country round it is very fertile, and hops are cultivated near it.

Colcheſter is a town of great antiquity, and affords many relics of former grandeur. It is ſtill a handſome well-peopled place, and retains a ſhare of the manufacture of baize, for which it was once very famous. The other towns in Eſſex which chiefly participate in this manufacture are *Bocking*, *Braintree*, and *Coggleſhall*. The wool of which they make uſe comes principally from Lincolnſhire.

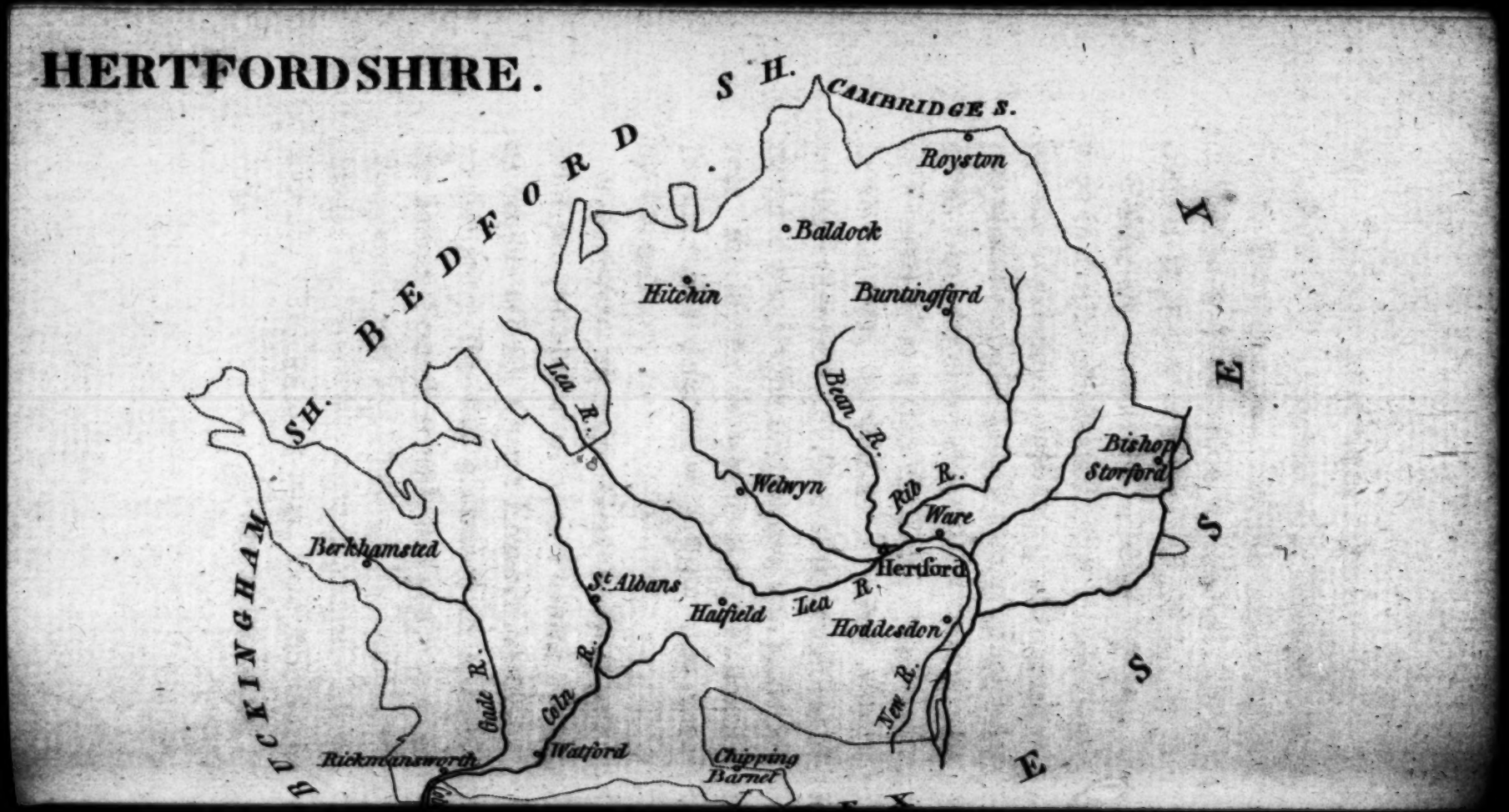
colnſhire. The goods are exported to Spain, Portugal, and Italy, through the intervention of the London merchants. This trade is at preſent in a low ſtate.

Colcheſter underwent a very obſtinate ſiege in 1648, on occaſion of an inſurrection for the royal cauſe againſt the authority of the parliament, the gallant leaders of which, on its ſurrender, were executed.

Various actions with the Danes happened in this county, as well as in many others on the eaſtern coaſt. One of the moſt memorable was fought at *Aſſingdon*, or *Aſhdown*, near Rochford, in which King Edmund Ironſide was defeated with great ſlaughter by Canute.

Tilbury-fort, oppoſite Graveſend, is the principal protection of the Thames. In its neighbourhood Queen Elizabeth reviewed the army ſhe had aſſembled to oppoſe the famous Spaniſh armada in 1588.

HEBRIDEN
SCHOTTLAND
IRLAND
ENGLAND
WALES


HERTFORDSHIRE.
BEDFORD S H.
CAMBRIDGE S.
ESSEX
ESSEX
BUCKINGHAM SH.
Royston
Baldock
Hitchin
Buntingford
Lea R.
Bean R.
Bishop Stortford
Welwyn
Rib R.
Ware
Berkhamsted
Hertford
St Albans
Lea R.
Hatfield
Hoddesdon
Gade R.
Colne R.
Ver R.
Rickmansworth
Watford
Chipping Barnet

HERTFORDSHIRE.

The county of *Herts* has to the north Cambridgeſhire and Bedfordſhire, to the weſt the latter county and Buckinghamſhire, to the ſouth Middleſex, and to the eaſt Eſſex. Its boundaries are no where marked by nature, except where the river Lea ſeparates it from Eſſex. Its ſhape is rendered extremely irregular by projections and indentations, eſpecially on the weſtern ſide. Its greateſt length may be reckoned at twenty-five miles, and breadth at thirty-five.

The northern ſkirt of this county is hilly, forming a ſcattered part of the chalky ridge which extends acroſs the kingdom in this direction. A number of ſtreams take their riſe from this ſide, which, by their clearneſs, ſhew the general nature of the ſoil to be inclined to hardneſs, and not abundantly rich. Flint ſtones are ſcattered in great profuſion over the face of this county; and

and beds of chalk are frequently to be met with. It is found, however, with the aid of proper culture, to be extremely favourable to corn, both wheat and barley, which come to as great perfection here as in any part of the kingdom. The weſtern part is in general a tolerably rich ſoil, and under excellent cultivation.

The principal river of Hertfordſhire is the *Lea*, which, riſing out of Leagrave marſh in the ſouth of Bedfordſhire, flows obliquely to the eaſtern ſide, waſhing the towns of Hertford and Ware, from the laſt of which it is navigable to the Thames. It collects in its courſe all the ſtreams of the northern and eaſtern parts.

On the ſouth-weſtern ſide the *Colne* unites various ſtreams, and conveys them out of the county near Rickmanſworth.

The wholeſome air and pleaſant ſituations of Hertfordſhire, together with its vicinity to the metropolis, have rendered it a favourite reſidence both in ancient and modern times; and it poſſeſſes many capital country ſeats

and

and remains of antiquity. Its towns, however, are of ſmall account; and it is without manufactures.

The great buſineſs of the county is the traffic of corn and the malting trade; which laſt is carried on to a very large extent in the towns of *Hitchin*, *Baldock*, *Royſton* and *Ware*. The latter town ſends a greater ſupply of malt to London than any other market. The Hertfordſhire malt is not, however, all grown in the county; but large quantities of barley are purchaſed in all the ſurrounding ones, which, after being malted in theſe towns, is ſent to London chiefly by the navigation of the Lea.

Royſton, a pretty conſiderable town, is ſituated partly in Cambridgeſhire, at the edge of the wide open plains before mentioned as extending through ſo many of the eaſtern counties. It has given its name to a ſpecies of crow called alſo the hooded or grey crow, which is a bird of paſſage in that neighbourhood, and alſo on the whole eaſtern coaſt.

Hertford,

Hertford, the county town, is a place of very little conſequence.

St. Alban's is an ancient town, of conſiderable ſize, but carrying on ſcarcely any other traffic than what reſults from its being the great thoroughfare from London to the north-weſt. Its abbey-church is a venerable edifice of vaſt magnitude. In and near this town were fought two battles in the bloody wars of York and Lancaſter. That in 1455 was the firſt conflict between the parties, and terminated in favour of the Yorkiſts. The valiant Clifford and the great Earl of Somerſet were ſlain in it, and the King (Henry VI.) taken priſoner. The ſecond battle, in 1461, ended in a complete victory to Queen Margaret, at the head of the Lancaſtrians.

Cloſe to St. Alban's are the veſtiges of the ancient town *Verulam*, ſo conſiderable in the time of the Romans.

The field of *Barnet*, between St. Alban's and London, was alſo the ſcene of a bloody battle in thoſe deſtructive wars of the two houſes,

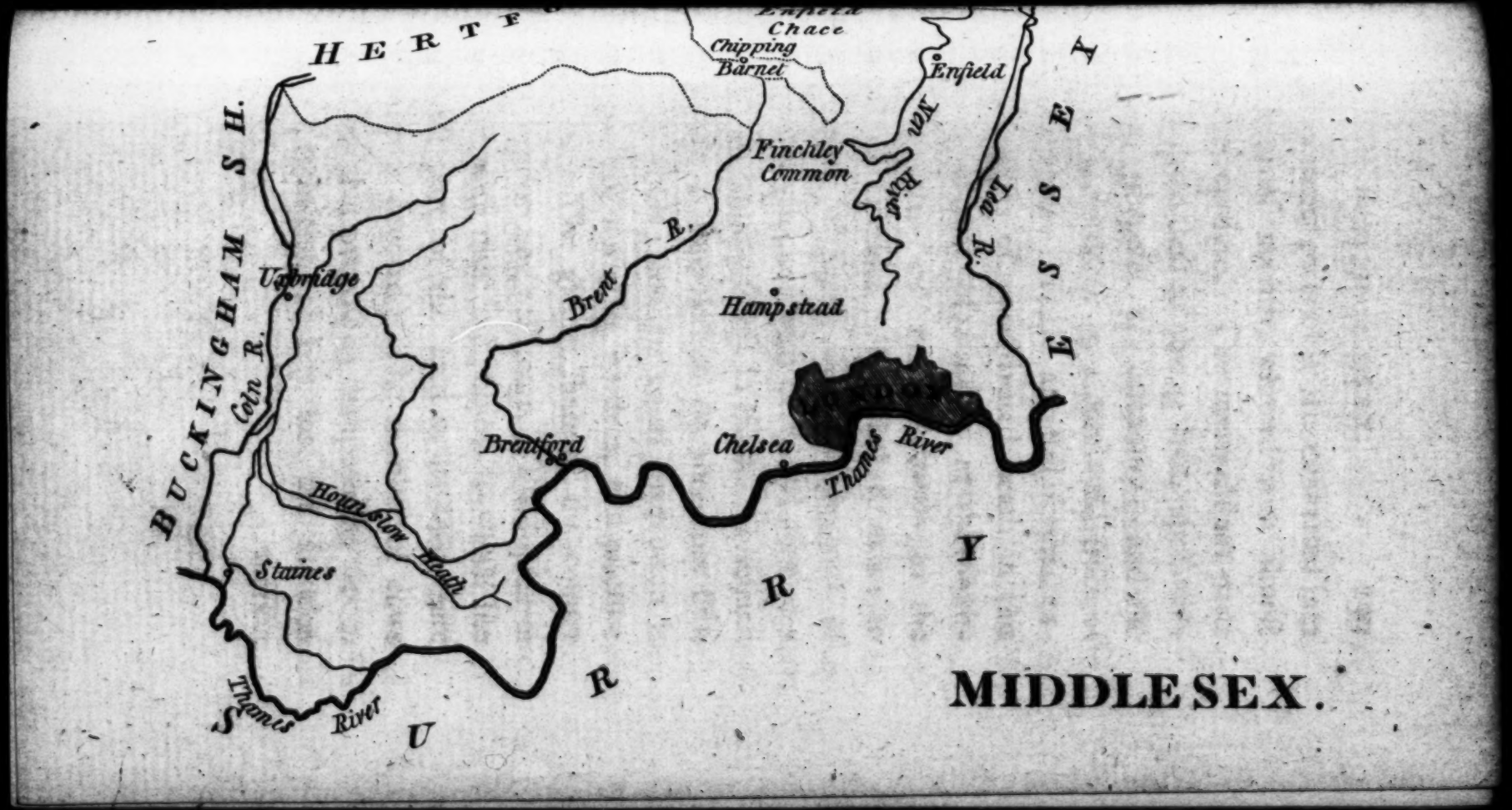
houſes, which proved deciſive in favour of Edward IV. his great foe, the king-making Earl of Warwick, being there ſlain. It was fought on Eaſter-day in the year 1471.

MIDDLESEX.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Hertfordſhire, on the weſt by Buckinghamſhire, on the ſouth by Surry and a corner of Kent, and on the eaſt by Eſſex.

On three ſides it has the natural limits of rivers; the Thames on the ſouth, the Coln on the weſt, divided into ſeveral parallel and communicating ſtreams, and the Lea on the eaſt. Its general figure is quadrangular, but rendered very irregular on the ſouthern ſide by the windings of the Thames, and on the northern by a hook-like projection into Hertfordſhire. In ſize it is one of the leaſt of the counties, meaſuring at the utmoſt only about twenty-two miles from eaſt to weſt, and ſeventeen from north to ſouth.

That part of Middleſex which borders on London is naturally a diſtrict of little fertility, its general ſoil being a lean gravel; though, by means of the vicinity of the metropolis,


HERTF
Chace
Chipping
Barnet
Enfield
Finchley
Common
Lea R.
BUCKINGHAM SH.
Uxbridge
Coln R.
Brent R.
Hampstead
Brentford
Chelsea
Thames River
Hounslow Heath
Staines
Thames River
R
Y
R
U
MIDDLESEX.

tropolis, many parts of it are converted into rich beds of manure, clothed with almoſt perpetual verdure. The more diſtant parts have a good deal of ſtrong land, applicable to moſt purpoſes of huſbandry; and the Thames is bordered by a continued tract of rich meadows. There are ſtill ſeveral extenſive tracts of uncultivated heath in this county; as that of *Hounſlow* at the ſouth-weſtern part, and *Finchley-common* to the north of London. This laſt ſtretches to the borders of *Enfield-chaſe*, a large tract of wood-land ſtocked with deer, and continues nearly to Epping foreſt in Eſſex. The land in tillage is ſuppoſed to be about one fifth of the whole; and an equal proportion is occupied by nurſeries, gardens, and pleaſure grounds. The greater ſhare of the county is in meadow and paſturage. The ſupply of London with milk is an object to which the greateſt part of the land in its immediate vicinity is devoted. The number of cows kept for that purpoſe is computed at 6000. The production of hay for the London

market

market is the principal object of the farmers at a more remote distance. A considerable quantity of ground is cut up for the making of bricks, to the great profit of the owner, though to the nuisance of the neighbours. Of other economical objects pursued in this county, may be mentioned the feeding of house lambs as a luxury in the winter months. These are always the product of Dorsetshire ewes, which are made to lamb about Michaelmas. The cultivation of willows on the banks of the Thames from Fulham to Staines for the use of the basket makers, is another article of considerable profit.

Besides the boundary rivers already mentioned, Middlesex is watered by several small streams, one of which, called the *New-river*, is artificially brought from Amwell, near Ware, in Hertfordshire, for the purpose of supplying London with water, in the pipes and cisterns of which vast city it may be said to terminate. A considerable number and variety of mineral waters have

have been found in the neighbourhood of London.

The whole county of Middleſex may be conſidered as a ſort of demeſne to the metropolis, being covered with its villas, interſected by the innumerable roads leading to it, and laid out in gardens, paſtures, and encloſures of all ſorts for its convenience and ſupport. It ſwarms with people in its numerous and extenſive villages; but no large towns can exiſt in the neighbourhood of that which attracts people ſo ſtrongly from the whole nation.

To attempt any deſcription, however ſlight, of ſuch a place as *London*, would be inconſiſtent with a plan, the whole of which is compriſed in a ſmall volume. It will be ſufficient to point out ſome of the peculiarities of its ſituation, and the general cauſes which have raiſed it to ſuch immenſe bulk and opulence.

The united cities of LONDON and WESTMINSTER are ſituated on a gentle declivity on the northern bank of the *Thames*;

the bending courſe of which river they follow for the ſpace of ſome miles. On the oppoſite bank, upon more level and naturally marſhy ground, lies the borough of SOUTHWARK, bordering the river ſtill farther than London does. The broad ſtream of the Thames flowing between, continually agitated by a briſk current, or a rapid tide, brings conſtant ſupplies of freſh air, which no buildings can intercept. The country round, eſpecially on the London ſide, is nearly open to ſome diſtance, whence, by the action of the ſun and wind on a gravelly ſoil, it is kept tolerably dry in all ſeaſons, and affords no lodgment for ſtagnant air or water. The cleanlineſs of London, as well as its ſupply of water, are greatly aided by its ſituation on the banks of the Thames; and the New-river, together with many good ſprings within the city itſelf, further contribute to the abundance of that neceſſary element. All theſe are advantages, with reſpect to *health*, in which this metropolis is exceeded by few.

Its

Its ſituation with regard to the circumſtance of *navigation* is equally well choſen: had it been placed lower on the Thames, beſides being annoyed by the marſhes, it would have been more liable to inſults from foreign foes: had it been higher, it would not have been acceſſible, as at preſent, to ſhips of large burthen. It now poſſeſſes every advantage that can be derived from a ſea-port, without its dangers; and at the ſame time, by means of its noble river, enjoys a very extenſive communication with the internal parts of the country, which ſupply it with all ſorts of neceſſaries, and in return receive from it ſuch commodities as they require. With the great article of fewel London is plentifully ſupplied by ſea from the northern collieries; and to this circumſtance the nation is indebted for a great nurſery of ſeamen, not depending upon foreign commerce; which is a principal ſource of its naval ſuperiority. Corn and various other articles are with equal eaſe conveyed to it from all the maritime

parts of the kingdom, and great numbers of coaſting veſſels are continually employed for this purpoſe.

London therefore unites in itſelf all the benefits ariſing from navigation and commerce, with thoſe of a metropolis at which all the public buſineſs of a great nation is tranſacted; and is at the ſame time the mercantile and political head of theſe kingdoms. It is alſo the ſeat of many conſiderable manufactures; ſome almoſt peculiar to itſelf, as miniſtering to the demands of ſtudied ſplendour and refined luxury; others in which it participates with the manufacturing towns in general, with this difference, that only the finer and more coſtly of their works are performed here. The moſt important of its peculiar manufactures is the ſilk weaving, eſtabliſhed in Spital-fields by refugees from France. A variety of works in gold, ſilver, and jewellery; the engraving of prints; the making of optical and mathematical inſtruments, are likewiſe principally or ſolely executed here, and ſome of

of them in greater perfection than in any other country. The porter-brewery, a buſineſs of very great extent, is alſo chiefly carried on in London. To its port are likewiſe confined ſome branches of foreign commerce, as the vaſt Eaſt India trade, and thoſe to Turkey and Hudſon's Bay.

Thus London has riſen to its preſent rank of the firſt city in Europe with reſpect to opulence; and nearly, if not entirely ſo, as to number of inhabitants. Paris and Conſtantinople may diſpute the latter with it. Its population, like that of all other towns, has been greatly over-rated, and is not yet exactly determined; but it is probable that the reſidents in London, Weſtminſter, Southwark, and all the out-pariſhes, ſcarcely exceed 600,000.

The ſtyle of building, both public and private, in this metropolis, is rather formed upon the plan of neatneſs and convenience than of ſplendour and magnificence. No capital contains proportionally fewer palaces, and none ſo many good houſes. Of the

public edifices, St. Paul's church, the Bank, Somerſet buildings, and two of the bridges, are almoſt the only ones that have pretenſions to grandeur and beauty united. The ſtreets in the old parts of the town are, for the moſt part, ill laid out, and frequently narrow; but the new ſtreets and ſquares are planned and built with great regularity and elegance. The paving and lighting of the whole are admirable.

The market towns in Middleſex afford nothing remarkable.

At *Brentford*, where the *Brent* enters the Thames, King Edmund Ironſide defeated the Danes drawn off from the ſiege of London, and drove them acroſs the river. To this place alſo King Charles I. advanced after the battle of Edgehill, and gave a hot alarm to the metropolis. The banks of the Thames from hence to London are almoſt entirely laid out in gardens and nurſery grounds, for the ſupply of the capital.

The royal palace of *Hampton-court* on the Thames, originally built by Cardinal

Wolſey, and a favourite reſidence of King William, is now almoſt deſerted.

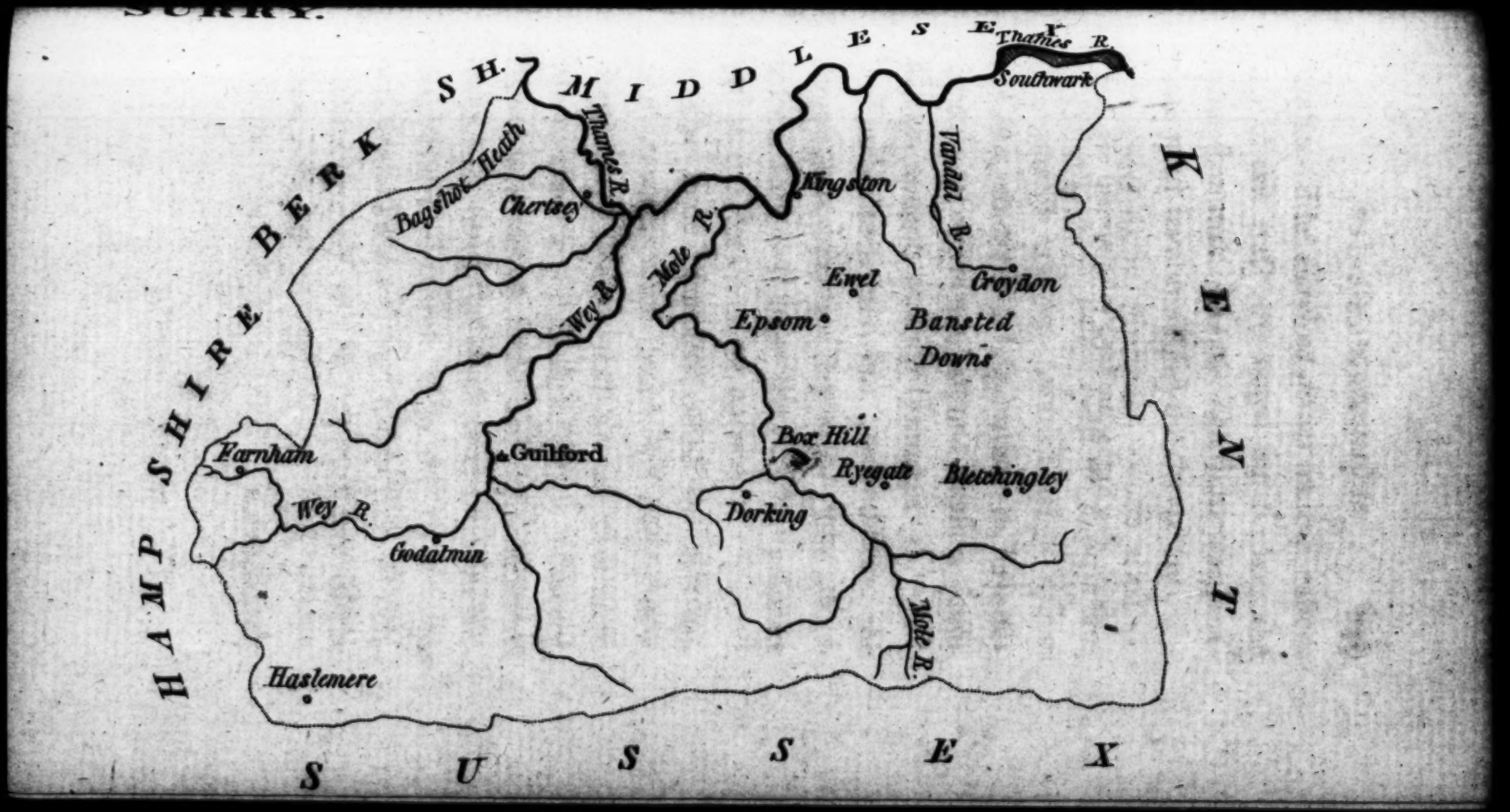
At *Kenſington* is alſo a royal palace, chiefly remarkable for its gardens.

Chelſea is diſtinguiſhed by its ſpacious hoſpital for ſuperannuated and diſabled ſoldiers.

SURRY.

THIS county has to the north Middleſex and a point of Buckinghamſhire, from both which it is ſeparated by the Thames; to the weſt Berkſhire and Hampſhire; to the ſouth Suſſex, and to the eaſt Kent. Its ſhape is a pretty regular oblong, except the northern ſide, which is deeply indented by the windings of the Thames. Its greateſt length is about twenty-ſeven miles, and breadth thirty-ſeven.

Surry has been compared to a piece of coarſe cloth with a fine border; its circumference being in general fertile, but its middle parts barren. On the banks of the Thames it has a range of beautiful meadows, interſperſed with numerous villas and pleaſure grounds. Acroſs the middle of the county, from eaſt to weſt, runs a ridge of irregular hills, abounding in chalk, intermixed with wide open downs and ſandy heaths.


SURRY.
SH.
M I D D L E S E X
Thames R.
Southwark
Thames R.
Kingston
Vandal R.
Bagshot Heath
Chertsey
Mole R.
Ewel
Croydon
Wey R.
Epsom
Bansted
Downs
Box Hill
Farnham
Guilford
Ryegate
Bletchingley
Wey R.
Dorking
Godalmin
Mole R.
Haslemere
S U S S E X
HAMP SHIRE
BERK
KENT

heaths. The *Banſtead downs* in the eaſtern part of this tract are noted for feeding the ſweeteſt mutton. Dyer, deſcribing the ſituations moſt favourable for the ſheep, ſays,

> Such are the downs of Banſtead, edged with woods
> And towery villas. FLEECE.

Cloſe to theſe is *Epſom-warren*, a celebrated race-ground; near which a well-known mineral purging ſpring ariſes.

Further on is *Box-hill*, covered with the largeſt box-trees in England. The *White downs*, ſo called from their chalky ſoil, are juſt in the centre of the county.

The ſame hilly and naked grounds appear towards the north-weſtern corner, where *Bagſhot-heath* and the adjacent commons extend. All theſe parts, however, afford intervals of fertile and well-cultivated vales. A newly undertaken canal from Baſingſtoke in Hampſhire to the river Wey, will croſs this tract, and is expected to contribute greatly to the improvement of the barren heaths.

Immediately

Immediately beneath the hills to the ſouth and eaſt lies *Holms-dale*, a rough and woody tract, extending into Kent, in which red deer are ſtill found. It is ſaid to take its name from the holm-oak with which it abounds.

The ſouthern ſkirt of the county is well watered, and finely varied with wood, arable, and paſture.

On the whole, the proportion of waſte land in Surry is large, amounting to one ſixth. There are, beſides, many open commons capable of much improvement.

The principal river of this county is the *Wey*, which riſes in Hampſhire, and, after paſſing Guildford, flows on to the Thames, which it joins near Chertſey. It turns many paper and corn mills for the uſe of the metropolis. Pope, in his Windſor-foreſt, characterizes this river as the

——*chalky* Wey, that rolls a milky wave.

The *Mole*, ſpringing in the borders of Suſſex, flows through the centre of the county

county to join the Thames a little below the former. This river, near Box-hill, ſinks under ground, and appears again at the diſtance of two or three miles. Hence the ſame poet calls it

The ſullen Mole that hides his diving flood.

Numerous rivulets from the weſt and ſouth join the Wey; and from the ſouth-eaſt the Mole.

The *Wandle* or *Vandal*, a ſmall ſtream which riſes at Croydon, and enters the Thames at Wandſworth, is remarkable for the great works for callico printing which are eſtabliſhed on its banks.

With reſpect to the traffic and products of this county, all that part of it which lies neareſt London is devoted to the pleaſure and ſupply of the inhabitants of the metropolis. Some of the moſt delightful villas round London are on the Surry banks of the Thames. *Richmond*, which poſſeſſes a royal ſeat, affords from its hill a proſpect of rural elegance and beauty unrivalled in the

the kingdom. *Kew*, adjoining to it, is alſo an occaſional reſidence of the royal family, and has a very complete botanical garden.

The villages of *Putney*, *Wandſworth*, *Batterſea*, &c. on the river, cultivate vaſt quantities of vegetables for the London markets.

The remoter parts grow corn and the other uſual products of farming countries. The rearing of houſe lambs for the London market is purſued to a large extent by ſome of the farmers. Hops are cultivated with great ſucceſs on the weſtern border.

The *borough of Southwark* is the principal place for populouſneſs and traffic in this county; but it has been already mentioned as compoſing a part of London. It is particularly concerned in the vaſt buſineſs carried on upon the Thames, both above and below bridge. Its neighbourhood abounds in works of various kinds belonging to the manufactures and trades of the metropolis.

Guildford

Guildford is properly the county town. The Wey is navigable from thence to the Thames, and much corn and timber are carried upon it.

Farnham, on the borders of Hampſhire, is remarkable for one of the greateſt wheat markets in England; and for the ſale of the fineſt hops, grown in plantations round it.

Kingſton upon Thames is a handſome and genteel town, at which the aſſizes are held alternately with Guildford.

Dorking is noted for its large breed of fowls, which, with other poultry, it ſends to the London markets.

Between Egham and Stains is the famous *Runnymede*, a meadow on the Thames,

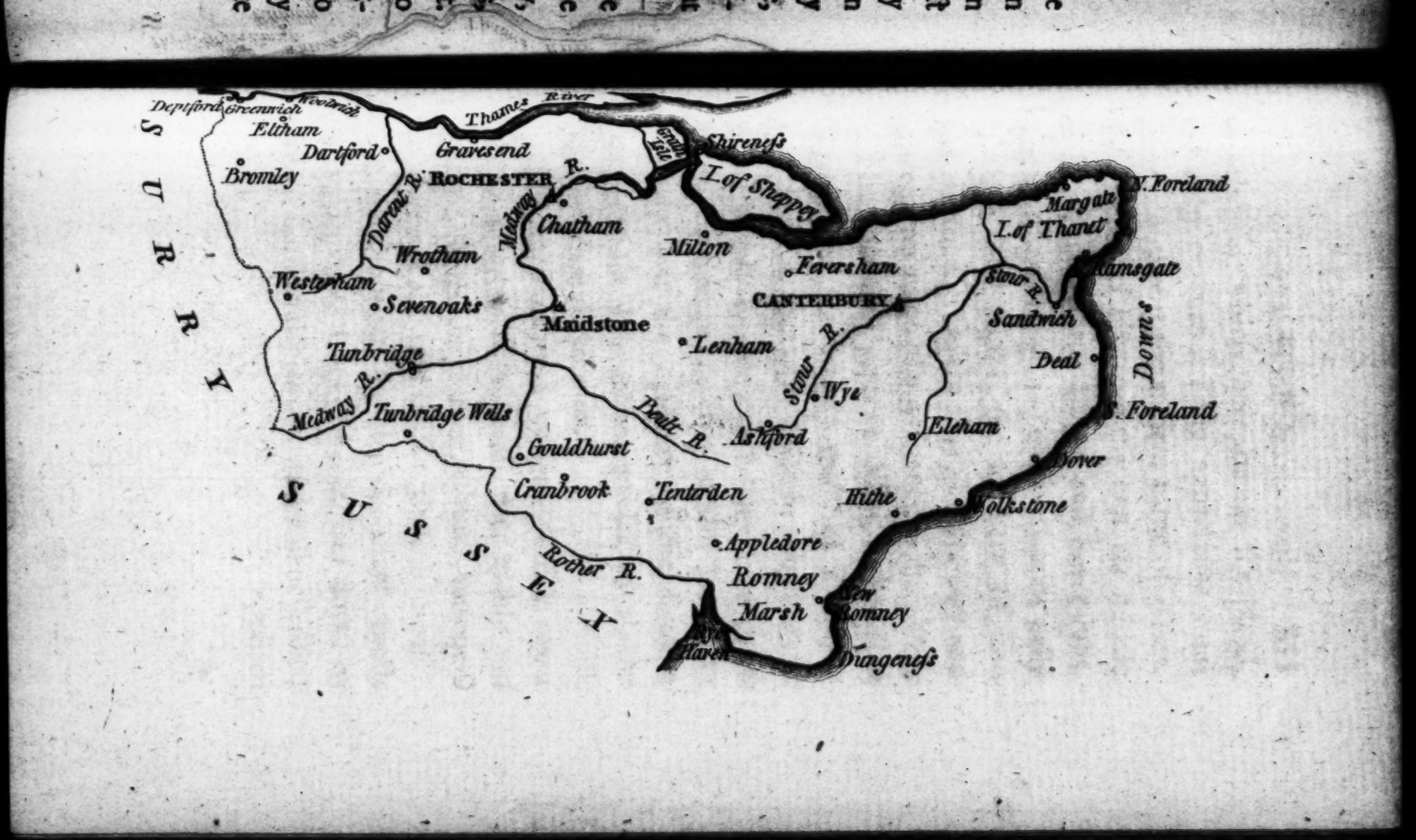
> Where England's ancient barons, clad in arms,
> And ſtern with conqueſt, from their tyrant king,
> Then rendered tame, did challenge and ſecure
> The charter of her freedom. AKENSIDE.

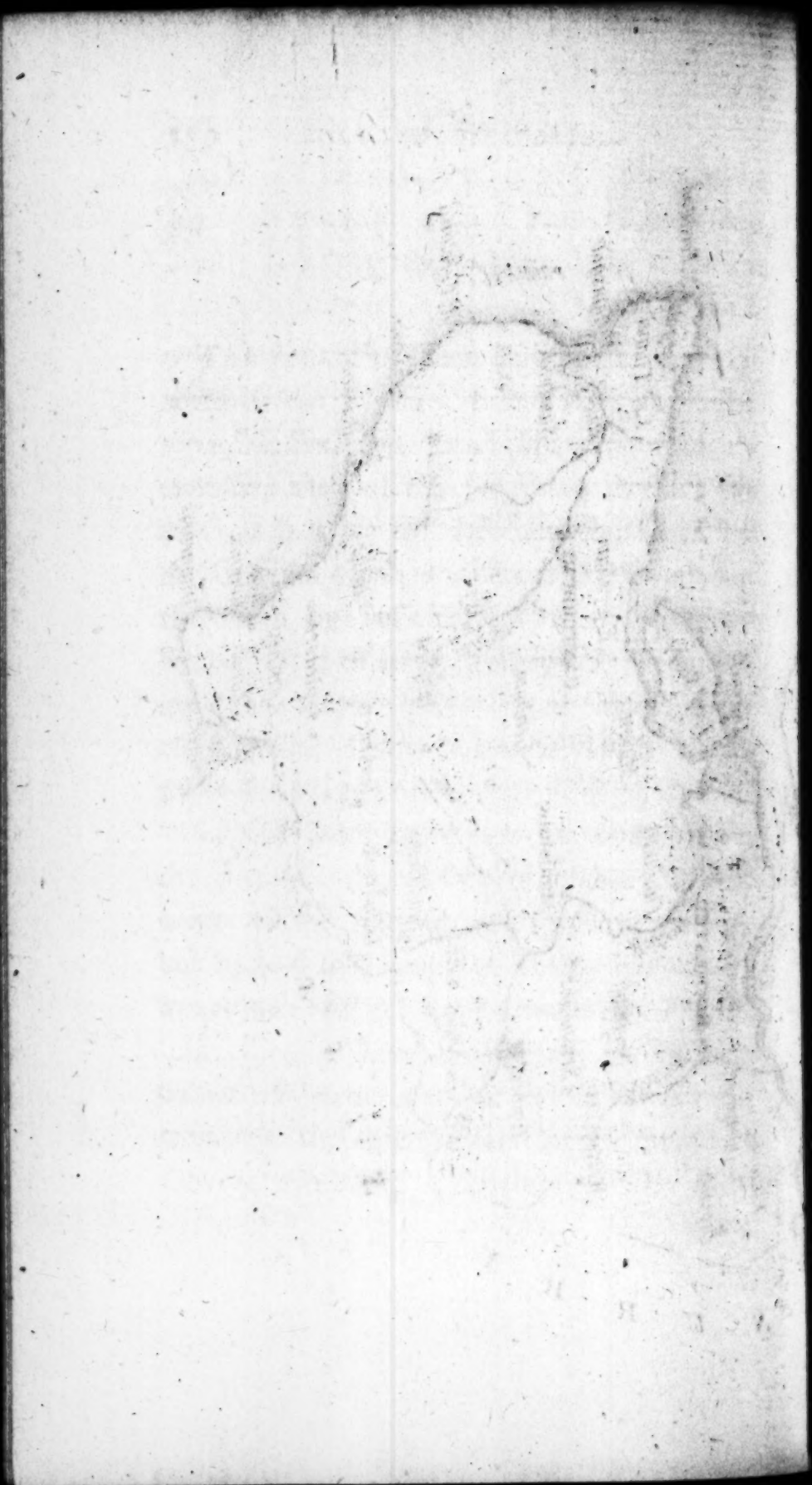
This great event of King John's ſigning *Magna Charta* happened in the year 1216.

K E N T.

The county of Kent is bounded on the north by the Thames, firſt flowing between it and Eſſex, and then expanding into an extenſive kind of bay, reaching to the coaſt of Suffolk; on the eaſt and ſouth-eaſt by the German ocean and ſtraits of Dover; on the ſouth by Suſſex; and on the weſt by Surry. It is of an irregularly oblong figure, meaſuring from eaſt to weſt about fifty-eight miles, from north to ſouth about thirty-ſix miles.

In this large ſpace there is conſiderable diverſity of ſoil and face of country. The banks of the Thames are low and marſhy, but backed by a range of chalky eminences, ſometimes riſing to a moderate height. This kind of hard chalky ſoil, inclining to barrenneſs, extends to the north eaſtern extremity of the county, and thence round to Dover, exhibiting its nature in the lofty white


Deptford
Greenwich
Woolwich
Eltham
Dartford
Bromley
Thames River
Gravesend
Tilbury Fort
Shirenes
I. of Sheppey
ROCHESTER
Darent R.
Medway R.
Chatham
Milton
Feversham
N. Foreland
Margate
I. of Thanet
Ramsgate
Wrotham
Westerham
Sevenoaks
Maidstone
CANTERBURY
Stour R.
Sandwich
Deal
Lenham
Tunbridge
Medway R.
Tunbridge Wells
Stour R.
Wye
Ashford
Deal R.
Eleham
Dover
S. Foreland
Downs
Gouldhurst
Cranbrook
Tenterden
Hithe
Folkstone
Appledore
Romney
Marsh
Rother R.
New Romney
Hythe
Dungeness
SURRY
SUSSEX



white cliffs, which here bound the iſland, and produce that ſtriking appearance from ſea which gave it the ancient name of *Albion*. Two chains of hills run through the middle of Kent, called the upper and lower hills. The northern range is compoſed principally of chalk and flints: the ſouthern of iron and ragſtone. On the Surry border clay and gravel prevail on the eminences.

The ſouthern part of Kent, called the *Weald*, is a flat woody tract, of a clayey ſoil; fruitful, but unwholeſome on account of its moiſture. It terminates in the great marſh of Romney. It is in this part particularly that the opulence of the farmers has given the proverbial appellation of the wealthy Kentiſh yeomen.

The midland and weſtern diſtricts are a happy mixture of hill and vale, arable and paſture, equal in pleaſantneſs and variety of products to any part of England.

Kent produces, beſides the uſual objects of agriculture, large quantities of hops, by which the London breweries are almoſt ſolely ſupplied;

ſupplied; fruit of various kinds, eſpecially cherries, filberts and apples, of which are large orchards for ſupplying the London markets; madder for dying; timber in the woody parts, and birch twigs for brooms, which form no ſmall article of commerce for the uſe of the metropolis.

The principal river of Kent, beſides the Thames, is the *Medway*, which, coming down from Suſſex, and joined by many rivulets from the Weald, croſſes this county by Maidſtone and Rocheſter, and falls into the mouth of the Thames between the iſles of Shepey and Grain.

The *Stour*, a ſmall ſtream riſing in the Weald, flows by Canterbury, and empties itſelf into the ſea below Sandwich.

The *Rother*, from Suſſex, forms the limit between the two counties for a ſmall ſpace, and then joins the ſea at Rye.

In ſurveying the numerous places in Kent which deſerve notice, we ſhall proceed down the Thames, and thence along the ſea-coaſt.

Deptford,

Deptford, a very populous village, containing a royal dock-yard and arſenal, as well as ſeveral large private docks, is the firſt place in this county viſited by the Thames.

Then ſucceeds *Greenwich*, a conſiderable town, diſtinguiſhed by its royal park and obſervatory, and ſtill more by its noble hoſpital for maimed and decayed ſeamen, which is one of the grandeſt edifices, as well as of the moſt uſeful inſtitutions in the kingdom. Several of our monarchs, and among them Queen Elizabeth, were born in the palace formerly ſituated here.

Woolwich, ſomewhat below, is one of the greateſt depoſits of ordnance and naval ſtores belonging to the nation. It has a foundery for cannon, and ſeveral docks for men of war, the largeſt of which have here ſufficient depth of water to ride at all times in ſafety. A royal military academy is eſtabliſhed at this place.

Graveſend is the place where outward-bound ſhips lie till viſited by the cuſtom-

houſe officers, and where paſſengers commonly land and embark. Great quantities of garden vegetables are grown in its neighbourhood.

Near Graveſend are vaſt chalk pits, from which great quantities of lime are made. Flint-ſtones taken out of the pits are ſent as far as Staffordſhire for the uſe of the potteries there. Farther down a marſhy peninſula ſtretches out, terminating in the iſle of Grain, round which is the mouth of the Medway. A little way up this river lies the town of *Chatham*, famous for its great naval arſenal and docks, defended by ſtrong and extenſive fortifications. Many of the largeſt ſhips of war are laid up here in time of peace. In the inglorious reign of Charles II. the Dutch ſailing up this river, here deſtroyed ſeveral capital veſſels.

Contiguous to Chatham is the city of *Rocheſter*; a place of great antiquity, but at preſent of ſmall conſequence. It has juriſdiction over the great oyſter fiſhery in the ſeveral creeks of the Medway.

Deſcending

Deſcending this river again, the *Iſle of Sheppey* appears; a moderately elevated clayey tract, ſeparated from the land by the *Eaſt Swale*, a branch of the Medway. It yields plenty of fine corn, and feeds numerous flocks of ſheep. On its northern point, called *Shireneſs*, is a fort for the protection of the Medway, reckoned one of the moſt unhealthy ſpots in England. *Milton*, oppoſite this iſland, is noted for its large oyſters.

Feverſham, at a ſmall diſtance from the ſhore, has a ſmall port on a creek, and is famous for the beſt oyſters for laying in ſtews. Here that miſguided King James II. was ſtopped, attempting to embark for France, after the ſucceſs of the Prince of Orange. The country about Feverſham is very rich, and in high cultivation. There are ſeveral gunpowder mills in its neighbourhood.

Further eaſtward begin the chalk cliffs, forming a kind of wall in front of the ſea. The eaſtern angle of the coaſt conſiſts of

the *iſle of Thanet*, now ſeparated from the main only by a narrow channel of the Stour. It produces much corn, eſpecially barley, and alſo madder. The ſouthern part of it contains a tract of rich marſh land. The huſbandry of this iſle, and of Eaſt Kent in general, has long been famous. In the iſle of Thanet is *Margate*, a place rapidly increaſed of late years, by the great reſort from London for the purpoſe of ſea-bathing. It has a harbour, from whence the corn of the country is exported; and veſſels are frequently paſſing from it to the coaſt of Flanders.

Round the land from hence is the point called *North Foreland*, between which and *South Foreland* lie the *Downs*, a greatly frequented road for ſhipping. Off at ſea are the dangerous *Goodwin Sands*, ſuppoſed formerly to have made a part of the Kentiſh land. For the better ſecurity of navigation on this coaſt, great ſums of money have been expended in building piers at *Ramſgate*; but its haven is ſtill very indifferent.

This

This town has ſome trade to the Baltic, and is frequented for bathing.

Sandwich, a little way up the Stour, has its harbour ſo choked up as to admit only ſmall veſſels, which export corn, fruit, and garden ſeeds, the product of the neighbourhood.

The ſhore from hence to Deal is flat and ſandy. The towns and villages on the coaſt are inhabited by fiſhermen, pilots, and others who gain ſubſiſtence from the ſea, and find frequent employ in aſſiſting ſtranded ſhips, and ſaving goods and men from wrecks. The *Deal* people are reckoned peculiarly bold and active upon theſe occaſions. That town has alſo a conſiderable traffic in ſupplying ſhips with vegetables and other neceſſaries.

On turning the South Foreland, the famous town and caſtle of *Dover* appear, formerly a place of the greateſt importance, and accounted the key of the iſland; but at preſent chiefly known as the ſtation of the French and Flemiſh pacquets, and the

ſhorteſt paſſage to the Continent. The diſtance from Dover to Calais is but twenty-ſeven miles; and, in the narroweſt part of the Straits, the two lands are only twenty-one miles aſunder. The harbour of Dover is made by a gap in the cliffs, which are here of ſublime height, though ſomewhat exaggerated in the moſt pictureſque deſcription of Shakeſpear. Dover is the principal, though not the firſt in rank, of thoſe ancient port towns on this coaſt called the *Cinque-ports*, formerly of great conſequence, but now, either from changes in the coaſt itſelf, or the alterations in trade and navigation, become almoſt inſignificant. They are ſtill, however, diſtinguiſhed by various privileges.

The country inland from Dover conſiſts chiefly of open downs, on which many ſheep are fed.

The high chalk cliffs continue to *Folkſtone*, a fiſhing town, from whence the coaſt becomes flat and marſhy to the extreme point of Kent, *Dungeneſs*. This is the termination

mination of *Romney-marſh*, a vaſt tract of rich wet land, chiefly devoted to ſheep-grazing. The ſort here kept is large, and affords a great ſupply of fat mutton to the London markets. Their wool is ſome of the fineſt of the long combing kind. Some large oxen are alſo fattened here. The country is thinly inhabited and reckoned unhealthy, but is improved of late years by draining.

Of the inland towns in Kent, the firſt to be mentioned is the city of *Canterbury*, diſtinguiſhed by being the metropolitan ſee of all England. Its ample cathedral has been the burial place of many of our kings and princes, among whom were Henry IV. and the Black Prince. At one of its altars was murdered that turbulent and ambitious prieſt, the archbiſhop Thomas a Becket, whom ſuperſtition afterwards made a ſaint; and his rich ſhrine in this cathedral was viſited by pilgrims from all parts of Europe. Canterbury is an old and meanly built city, though partaking of the late improvements

in that reſpect. Its trade is in a declining ſtate, notwithſtanding it poſſeſſes a ſhare of the ſilk manufactures introduced by the French refugees. It is celebrated for brawn, and the country round produces much hops of the beſt quality.

Maidſtone, the county-town of Kent, by means of its river the Medway, enjoys a briſk trade in exporting the commodities of the county, particularly its hops, of which there are numerous plantations around it. Linen thread is alſo made in this place.

Tunbridge, further up the ſame river, which is navigable to it for barges, is famous for its elegant turnery ware. The chalybeat wells in its neighbourhood were once one of the moſt faſhionable places of public reſort, and are ſtill frequented by many invalids in the ſeaſon.

Near *Sevenoaks* the rebel Cade defeated a party of the royal forces in Henry VI.'s time.

At *Dartford* began the inſurrection of Wat Tyler and Jack Straw, who afterwards muſtered

muſtered a vaſt force on *Blackheath*, near Greenwich, and marched to London.

Swaneſcombe, near Gravefend, is the place where, it is ſaid, the Kentiſh men, concealed by boughs of trees, met William the Conqueror, and demanded and obtained the confirmation of all their rights and privileges as the condition of their ſubmiſſion. The fact is doubted; though it is certain that many peculiar cuſtoms ſtill remain in Kent, one of the moſt remarkable of which is that of *gavelkind*, or the equal diſtribution of landed property among all the ſons in a family.

SUSSEX.

This county, which forms a long ſlip of land ranging along the ſea-coaſt, is bounded on the north by Surry and Kent; on the ſouth by the Britiſh Channel, which, together with Kent, forms its narrow eaſtern boundary; and to the weſt by Hampſhire. From eaſt to weſt it meaſures full ſeventy miles, from north to ſouth in no part more than twenty-eight miles, and in general conſiderably leſs.

The northern and middle part of Suſſex, a tract continued from the Weald of Kent, and of the ſame nature with it, was formerly entirely covered with foreſts: and, though many of theſe have been cut down, it is ſtill well furniſhed with timber both of large and ſmall growth. The ſoil is generally clay, but intermixed with ſandy waſtes. A ridge of hills running in a north-weſterly direction is compoſed of gritſtone, limeſtone, and iron ore.

A narrow

SUSSEX.

SURRY
KENT
HAMPSHIRE
E. Grinstead
Horsham
Ashdown Forest
Petworth
Midhurst
Cuckfield
Rother R.
Rye
Winchelsea
Arun R.
Adur R.
Ouse R.
Steyning
CHICHESTER
Arundel
New Shoreham
Lewes
Cookmere R.
Battel
Hastings
Brighthelmstone
Seaford
Pevensey Bay
Abbey Hill
Beachy Hd

A narrow ſlip below the middle of the county is a rich tract of arable and meadow. To it ſucceed the Downs, a range of green open hills of a chalky ſoil, affording excellent paſturage for ſheep, and in many parts fertile in corn. The birds called wheat-ears are particularly numerous and excellent on theſe Downs, and are caught by the ſhepherds in great numbers. The tract from Lewes and its neighbourhood to the ſea is peculiarly famous, under the name of the *South Downs*, for its fine velvet-like turf, and the goodneſs of its wool and mutton. Towards the ſea the land in general declines, and in ſome parts is marſhy. The weſtern half of the coaſt is bounded by a ſtripe of loamy arable land of uncommon fertility. The general proportion of waſte and foreſt land in Suſſex is conſiderable.

This county was formerly famous for iron-works, in which great quantities of charcoal were uſed for ſmelting the ore, and thus the woods came to be gradually waſted. The works are now almoſt or entirely aban-

doned; this buſineſs, from the late improvements in ſmelting iron with pit-coal, having migrated to the counties which abound in that cheaper article, as well as in iron ore. The products for which Suſſex is at preſent diſtinguiſhed are chiefly corn, hops, wool, cattle and timber. The South-down breed of ſheep is native to that diſtrict, and is by many reckoned, for fineneſs of wool and goodneſs of fleſh, the firſt breed in the kingdom. Oxen are more uſed for draught in Suſſex than in moſt counties, and great numbers of them are fattened in the marſhes and meadows. The oak timber of Suſſex is ſuppoſed in quantity and quality to ſurpaſs that of any other county. It chiefly grows on the ſtiff clay of the Weald. The chalk hills produce a large quantity of beech wood.

Several ſmall ſtreams water this county, the courſe of which is little more than acroſs it. The *Arun*, riſing in the weſtern border, meanders through a beautiful tract of country, and falls into the ſea a little below

Arundel. It is famous for mullets. Parallel to this flows the *Adur*, coming down from the neighbourhood of Horſham, and diſcharging itſelf near New Shoreham. An *Ouſe* (which name is common to ſo many rivers) ſucceeds, on the banks of which many of the forges were ſituated. It paſſes Lewes, and enters the ſea near Seaford.

Several ſmall rivulets occupy the eaſtern part, to which at length ſucçeeds the ſmall eſtuary of the *Rother*, forming Rye harbour, and ſeparating Suſſex from Kent. From this point we ſhall begin a ſurvey of the ſea-coaſt, which is in general rocky, and lined with ſand-banks, ſo that the harbours are ſmall, and have little draught of water.

The town of *Rye*, an appendage to the Cinque-ports, is populous, though its port is ſo choked with ſand that it can admit only ſmall veſſels. It exports corn, malt, hops, and other products of the county. Its fiſhermen ſend conſiderable ſupplies to the London markets.

Winchelſea, one of the Cinque-ports, is

now

now deſerted by the ſea, and exhibits nothing but deſolation in its graſs-grown ſtreets. A finely-varied country, covered with woods, ſucceeds, extending to

Haſtings, the firſt in rank of the Cinque-ports, but which now poſſeſſes only an indifferent harbour, and has little trade but the fiſhery. It is famous in hiſtory for the deciſive battle in 1066 between William Duke of Normandy and Harold; in which the former, by his victory, obtained the crown of England, and appellation of the Conqueror. He is ſuppoſed to have landed at or near Pevenſey; and, after burning his ſhips, to have muſtered his army at Haſtings, and marched to battle in an adjacent plain. The abbey of *Battel* was founded in memory of this great combat. The preſent town on its ſite is noted for a manufacture conformable to its name and origin, that of gunpowder.

From hence the coaſt bends ſouthwards with a low ſhore along *Pevenſey level* to a blunt high promontory, called *Beachy-head*, and

and then runs a little northwards by *Seaford*, a fiſhing town, and the mouth of the Ouſe, to *Brighthelmſtone*. This is one of the moſt faſhionable reſorts at the preſent time for ſea-bathing, and is alſo a place of embarkation for France. It employs many boats in the herring and mackerel fiſhery. Its cliffs are continually becoming a prey to the waves.

New Shoreham is the next port; which has alſo ſuffered by the waves, but has ſtill a conſiderable trade in ſhip-building, the timber for which it derives from the interior parts of the county.

A few miles up the Arun, is *Arundel*, another port.

The coaſt then, taking another bend, forms the *bill* and peninſula of *Selſey*, noted for its cockles; and, ſoon after, reaching the extremity of the county, turns into a kind of cloſe bay, near a creek of which is ſituated the city of *Chicheſter*. This is a place of ſome traffic in the export of corn, malt, and other commodities, and has ſome foreign

foreign commerce. Needles are manufactured here. The haven affords fine lobsters.

Few of the inland towns of Suſſex require particular notice.

Lewes, accounted the capital, is a well built populous place, ſituated in a very plentiful country. Its river is navigable for barges. Near this town was fought a bloody battle in the Baron's wars, in 1263, wherein King Henry III. was defeated and made priſoner.

Horſham, near the borders of Surry, is a conſiderable town, at which the aſſizes are occaſionally held. Its market ſupplies London with much fine poultry.

BERKSHIRE.
OXFORD SHIRE
Isis or Thames R.
Abingdon
Faringdon
Ock R.
Wallingford
Vale of White Horse
Wantage
East Ilsley
Lamborn
Lamborn R.
Hungerford
Newbury
Reading
Kennet R.
Loddon R.
Part of Wilts
Cakingham
Windsor Park
Windsor
Maidenhead
Thames R.
BUCKINGHAM SH.
WILT SHIRE
HAMP SHIRE
SURRY

BERKSHIRE.

THE county of Berks has to the north Oxfordſhire and Buckinghamſhire, from which it is ſeparated by the Thames; to the eaſt Surry, to the ſouth Hampſhire, and to the weſt Wiltſhire. Its north-weſtern corner juſt meets a point of Glouceſterſhire. In ſhape it is very irregular, the whole long northern ſide being figured by the windings of the Thames, which, taking a ſouthern courſe from Oxford, almoſt cuts this county aſunder at Reading, and renders its whole weſtern part much broader than its eaſtern. Berkſhire from eaſt to north-weſt extends above fifty-miles, and from north to ſouth, in its wideſt part, about twenty-five, though little more than ſix in its narroweſt.

Of this county, the weſtern and middle parts are accounted the moſt fertile; the eaſtern is chiefly occupied by Windſor-foreſt and its appendages, and has much unculti-

vated ground. A range of chalk-hills runs acroſs from Oxfordſhire weſtward, and bounds the noted *Vale of White Horſe*, ſo called from the gigantic figure of an horſe rudely ſketched on the naked ſide of a chalk-hill. This vale, with the other cultivated parts of the county, produces grain in great abundance, and of excellent quality, eſpecially barley, of which vaſt quantities are malted and ſent to London. On the graſs lands in the vale are many good dairy farms; and great numbers of ſwine are fattened in the county.

About Newbury peat is dug, which is uſed for fuel, and its aſhes are employed as a rich manure for the land.

A large proportion of the county is open, the common fields and downs being eſtimated at above half the whole, and the waſtes, foreſts, and commons, at one eleventh.

The noble river Thames, which borders ſo large a part of this county, is of vaſt advantage to it, both in beſtowing beauty and fertility on ſo many ſituations in it, and in affording

affording a ready carriage by water of its commodities to the great mart of the metropolis. Berkſhire has, beſides, the benefit of another navigable river, the *Kennet*, which, making its entrance from Wiltſhire, flows to Newbury, where it becomes navigable, and below which it is augmented by the *Lamborn*, and then keeps along the ſouthern edge of the county, till, turning up to Reading, it mixes with the Thames.

The *Loddon*, joined by ſeveral ſmall ſtreams out of the eaſtern extremity of the county, flows into the Thames a little lower.

> The Kennet ſwift, for ſilver eels renown'd,
> The Loddon ſlow, with verdant alders crown'd.
>
> POPE, WINDSOR-FOR.

The *foreſt of Windſor* has long been famous for its rural beauties and for the pleaſures of of the chaſe which it has afforded to a long ſeries of our monarchs. It was the theme of the juvenile muſe of Pope, who was born within its precincts. Within the foreſt is

contained the *great park*, covered with noble trees, and ſtocked with numerous herds of deer. Part of this has been greatly improved and rendered of public utility, by the eſtabliſhment of experimental farms, managed with great attention under the particular direction of his preſent Majeſty. The magnificent caſtle of Windſor, ſeated on an eminence above the Thames, and commanding a view of the whole rich country around, was founded by William the Conqueror, and has ever ſince been a royal reſidence. Here was born the victorious Edward III. and here he inſtituted the illuſtrious order of the Garter, whoſe knights are always inſtalled in St. George's chapel at Windſor.

The capital of this county is *Reading*, a town of conſiderable ſize, and the centre of a genteel neighbourhood. Its chief trade is in malt, and in the export and import of commodities by means of the Thames. It ſupplies London with a vaſt quantity of flour.

Newbury, formerly eminent for the cloth-

ing manufactory, is now much declined in that reſpect, but is ſtill a populous place, and poſſeſſes a very excellent corn market. Its poor are chiefly employed in ſpinning. Two battles were fought near this town with dubious ſucceſs between the forces of King Charles I. and the Parliament, in 1643 and 1644, in the firſt of which was ſlain the gallant and virtuous Lord Falkland.

Abingdon and *Wallingford*, both on the Thames, are of note for the making of malt.

Ilſley is noted for its great ſheep market, frequented by the neighbourhood round to a conſiderable diſtance.

Several large fairs for horſes, neat cattle, and ſheep, are held in this county.

WILTSHIRE.

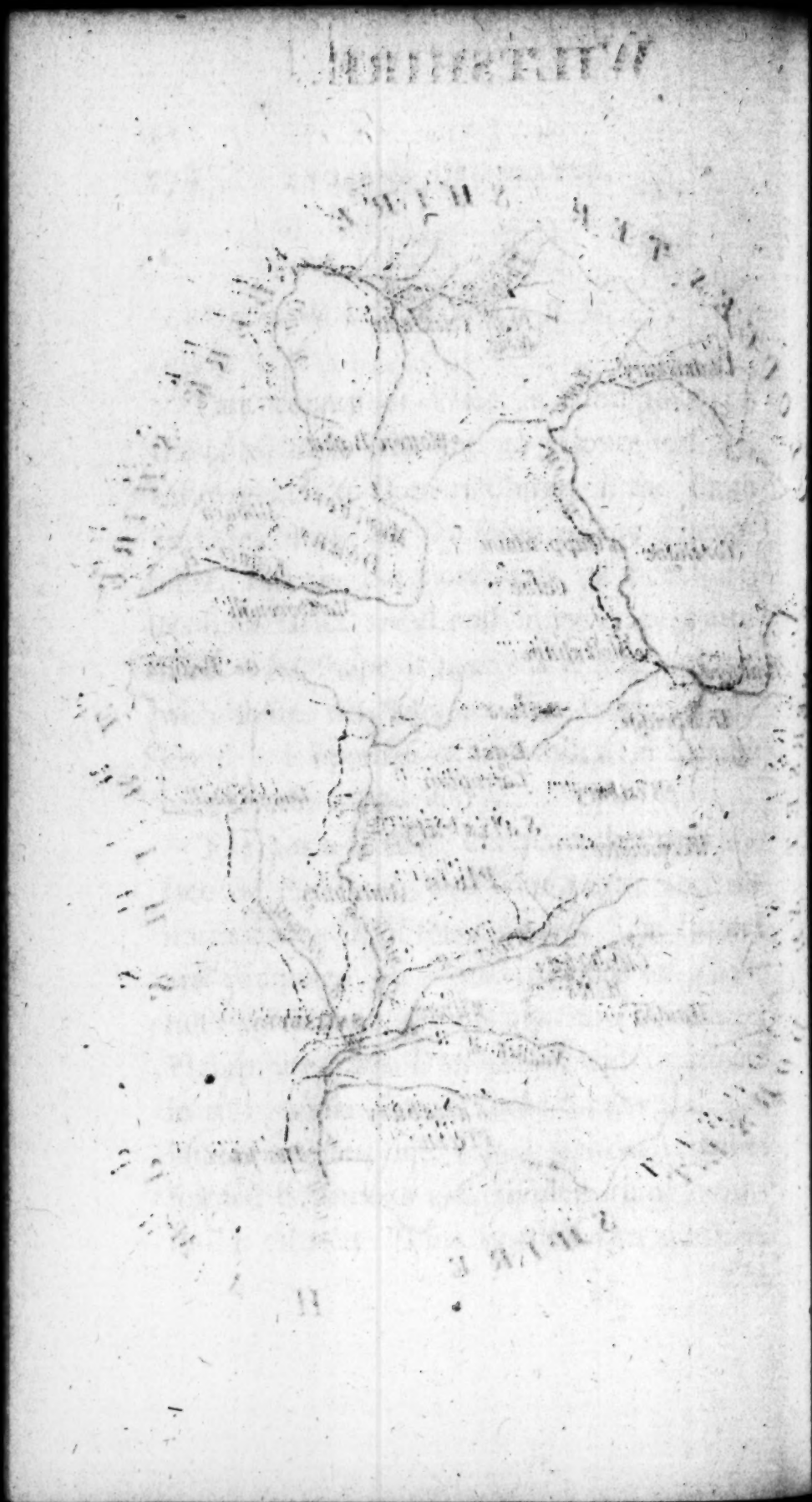
THE county of Wilts is contiguous on the north and north-weſt to Glouceſterſhire, on the weſt to Somerſetſhire, on the ſouth to Dorſetſhire, on the ſouth-eaſt to Hampſhire, and on the north-eaſt to Berkſhire. Its boundaries are almoſt in every part artificial. Its ſhape is nearly a regular oblong, with ſome windings on the borders. In length it is upwards of fifty miles, in breadth between thirty and forty.

There is a ſtriking difference between the face of the ſouth and eaſt parts, and the north and weſt, of this county. The former are compoſed of a broken maſs of chalk hills which enter the county from Berkſhire, Hampſhire, and Dorſetſhire, and terminate in an irregular line of bold breaks and diſjointed maſſes, interſected by deep vallies formed by brooks and rivulets riſing within this diſtrict. This is the larger diviſion.

The

WILTSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER SHIRE
BERK SHIRE
SOMERSET SH.
DORSET SHIRE
HAMPSHIRE
Thames R.
Pt of Glouc.
Cricklade
Colne R.
Malmsbury
Lower Avon R.
Wotton Basset
Marlboro Downs
Albourn
Kennet R.
Corsham
Chippenham
Calne
Marlborough
Melksham
Bradford
Gr. Bedwin
Trowbridge
Devizes
East Larington
Westbury
Luggershall
Salisbury Plain
Warminster
Upper Avon R.
Amesbury
Bourne R.
Willey R.
Chicklade Hills
Hindon
Wilton
SALISBURY
Yadder R.
Salisbury Plain
Downton
Avon R.



The weſt and north parts chiefly conſiſt of a rich tract of vale land, ſtretching north-eaſt and ſouth-weſt under the foot of the hills, but riſing gradually in the north-weſt corner till it joins the high lands of Glouceſterſhire. The general elevation of the county is proved by the various rivers which have their ſources in it. The heads of the *Thames* in Glouceſterſhire are very near the border of this county; and ſeveral of its tributary rills riſe in the north of Wiltſhire. The *lower Avon*, which flows to Briſtol, ſprings out of this diſtrict, and winds through a large part of the north-weſtern ſide of the county. Nearer the middle, among ſome chalky hills, riſes the *Kennet*, which, taking its courſe through Berkſhire, empties itſelf into the Thames. A little ſouthwards is the fountain of the *upper Avon*, which, running down to Saliſbury, then croſſes a part of Hampſhire, and diſcharges itſelf into the Engliſh channel. Thus, from the northern and middle parts of Wiltſhire, ſtreams are ſent to the three different ſides of this kingdom.

The Wiltſhire downs have two principal ſubdiviſions, called Marlborough-downs and Saliſbury-plain. *Marlborough-downs* occupy a conſiderable tract on the north-eaſtern ſide, towards the Berkſhire border.

Below the middle of the county begins that extenſive tract, great part of which bears the name of *Saliſbury-plain*, the moſt remarkable ſpot of the kind in England. Over theſe wilds, ſtretching beyond the reach of ſight, wander vaſt flocks of ſheep with their ſolitary ſhepherds, the ſole tenants of the plain, except the buſtard, the wheat-ear, and a few other lovers of the deſert. Ruins of Roman, Saxon and Daniſh monuments are ſcattered through theſe diſtricts; among which the famed *Stonehenge* riſes diſtinguiſhed to the view. This is a rude collection of vaſt ſtones, diſpoſed circularly, and ſome of them joined at top by a flat piece laid acroſs; concerning the builders of which, and the purpoſes it was intended to anſwer, antiquarians widely differ. Dyer, in his enumeration of the ſpots peculiarly adapted

adapted to ſheep, gives a ſtriking ſketch of the plain and its great relic.

——————— ſuch the ſpacious plain
Of Sarum, ſpread like ocean's boundleſs round,
Where ſolitary Stonehenge, grey with moſs,
Ruin of ages, nods. FLEECE.

The ſoil of this uncultivated waſte is ſaid to be naturally good, producing wild burnet, and fine graſſes excellent for ſheep. Its edges are fertilized by folding the flocks upon the plowed land, and yield abundant crops of rye, barley, and wheat.

To the ſouth of the largeſt tract of plain is a rich well-inhabited country, watered by the ſtreams of the *Willy*, the *Nadder*, the *Avon*, and the *Bourn*, which unite in the neighbourhood of Saliſbury. Between the Willy and Nadder lies the *Chicklade ridge* of hills, among which is *Chilmark*, noted for its quarries. Beyond the Nadder, to the borders of Dorſetſhire, the open plain reappears.

The great products of the downs, or ſouth and

and eaſt parts of Wiltſhire, are corn and ſheep: of the latter it is computed that the whole ſummer ſtock, including lambs, amounts to near 500,000. The kind chiefly kept is called the Wiltſhire horned ſheep, of middling ſize, and moderately fine wool, uſed in the manufacture of ſecond cloths. On the ſkirts of Dorſetſhire many cows are kept for the purpoſe of making butter.

The north-weſtern diſtrict of Wiltſhire is particularly famous for its cheeſe, formerly ſold under the name of Glouceſter, but now in ſufficient eſteem to be diſtinguiſhed by its own name. Cattle are likewiſe fattened in theſe parts, and great numbers of ſwine are reared.

The capital of Wiltſhire is *Saliſbury*, an ancient city, ſituated in a chalky ſoil, and almoſt ſurrounded by the Avon and its contributory rivers. It is of conſiderable ſize, genteelly inhabited, and rendered peculiarly clean by a ſmall running ſtream flowing through every ſtreet. It has a fine cathedral, crowned by a ſpire, the loftieſt in the kingdom;

kingdom; and poſſeſſes a manufacture of flannels and linſeys, and another of hardware and cutlery. At a ſmall diſtance from it lies the ancient borough of *Old Sarum*, now reduced to a ſingle farm houſe, yet retaining its privilege of ſending two members to Parliament.

Wilton, at the conflux of the Willy and Nadder, is noted for its manufacture of carpets, and of thin woollen cloths.

Devizes, a populous town north of the plain, makes ſerges and other woollen ſtuffs; and *Calne* has a ſimilar trade.

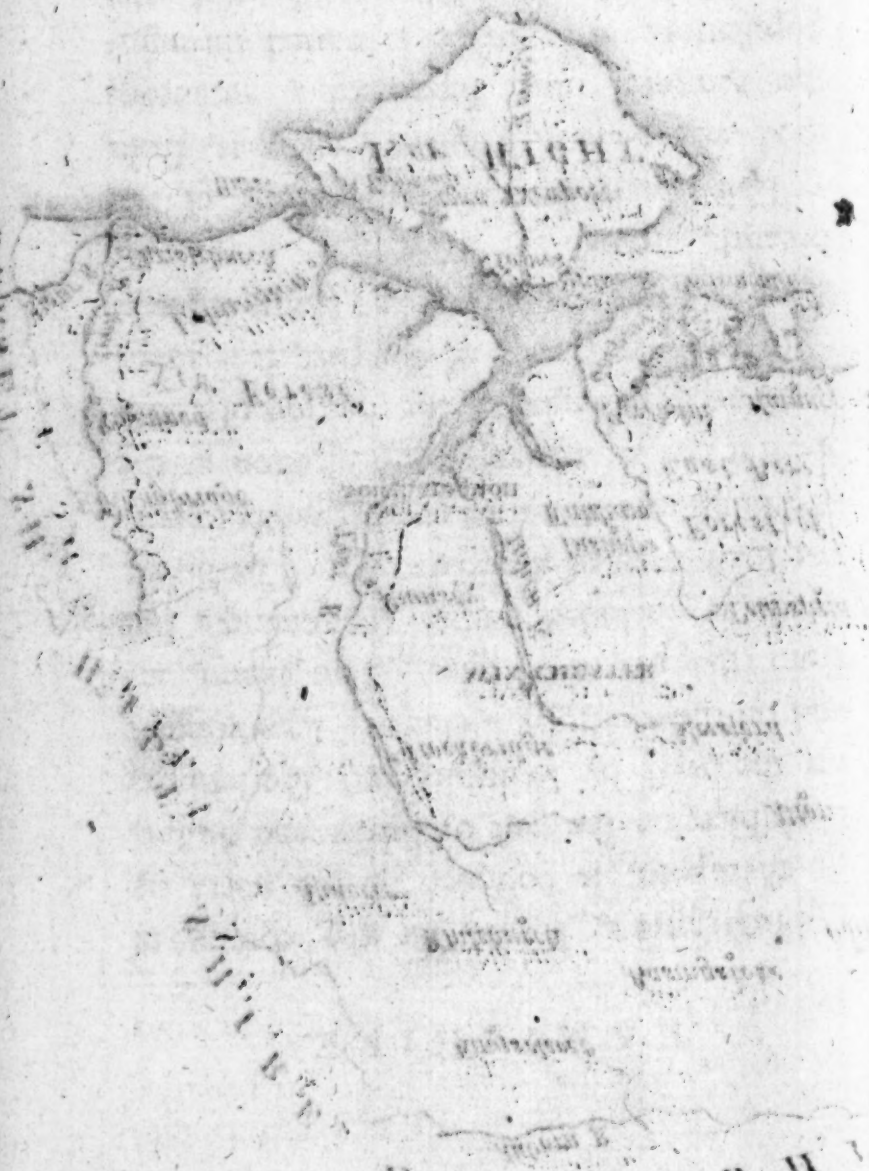
But the principal manufacturing country lies more to the weſtward, on the Somerſetſhire border. *Bradford*, on the lower Avon, is the centre of the greateſt fabric of ſuperfine cloths in England; which it ſhares with the ſurrounding towns of *Trowbridge*, *Melkſham*, *Corſham*, and *Chippenham*. The material is chiefly Spaniſh wool, imported at Briſtol or London. The goods are for the moſt part ſent by waggons to the Blackwell hall factors in London; but much is alſo

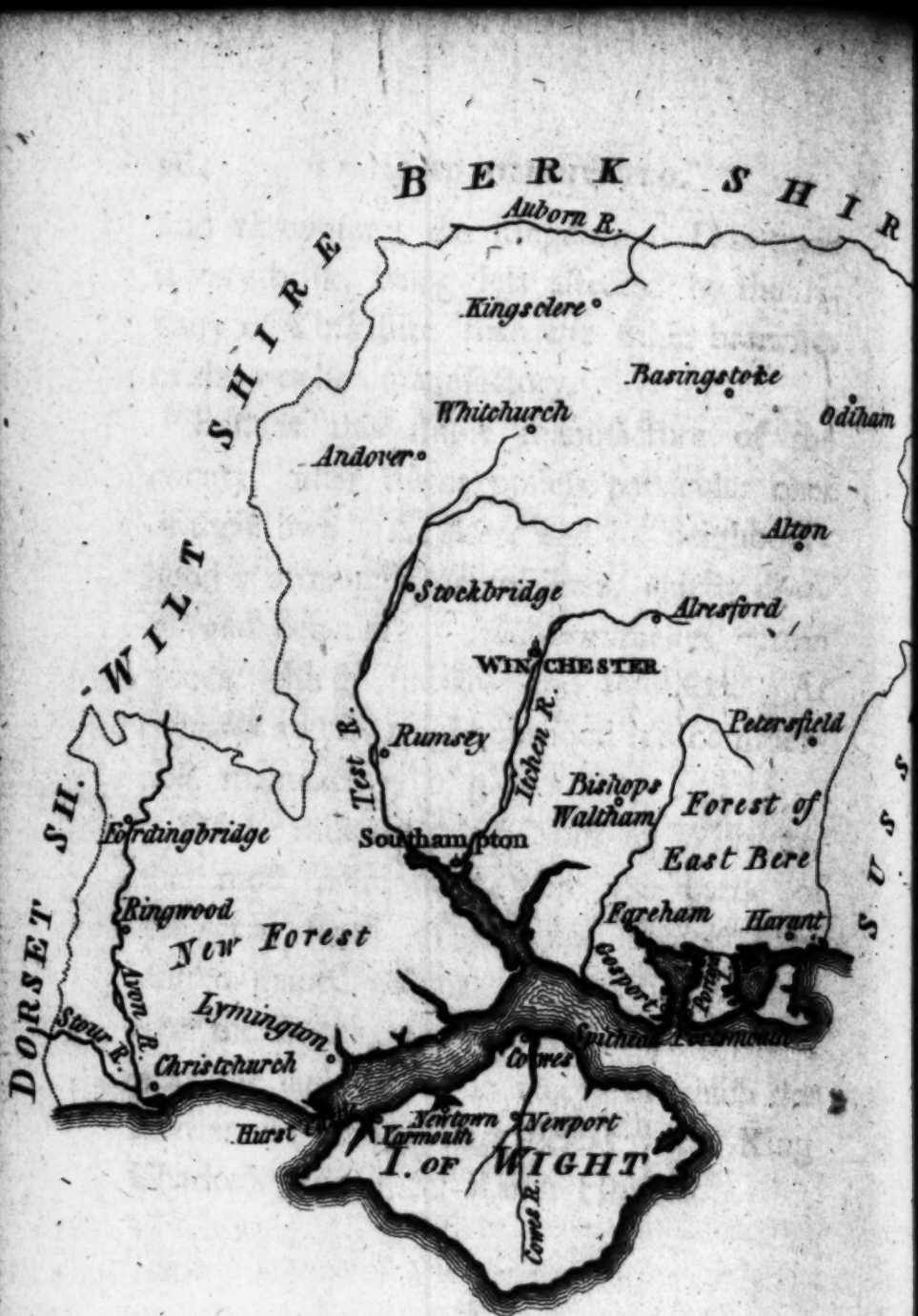
ſold

ſold throughout the kingdom. This trade is very briſk, being leſs affected by the rivalry of Yorkſhire than the other branches of the woollen manufactory.

Beſides this ſtaple manufacture of the county, other towns poſſeſs particular ones of their own. At *Mere* and its neighbourhood is a manufactory of linen, chiefly dowlas and bed-ticks. *Aldbourn* makes cotton goods, chiefly fuſtians and thickſets. At *Swindon* and its neighbourhood is a conſiderable manufactory of gloves.

Of the military tranſactions in Wiltſhire, the moſt memorable were the battle of *Edingdon*, ſouth of Devizes, where king Alfred gained a ſignal and deciſive victory over the Danes; and that of *Roundway down*, near the ſame town, in 1643, in which the Parliament troops were defeated by King Charles's general, Sir Ralph Hopton.




BERK SHIR
Auborn R.
WILT SHIRE
Kingsclere
Basingstoke
Odiham
Whitchurch
Andover
Alton
Stockbridge
Alresford
WINCHESTER
Test R.
Itchen R.
Romsey
Petersfield
Bishops Waltham
Forest of East Bere
Fordingbridge
Southampton
Ringwood
New Forest
Fareham
Harant
DORSET SH.
Avon R.
Stour R.
Lymington
Christchurch
Cowes
Hurst
Newtown
Yarmouth
Newport
I. OF WIGHT
Cowes R.
SUSS

HAMPSHIRE.

HAMPSHIRE.

HAMPSHIRE, Hants, or the county of Southampton, is bounded on the north by Berkſhire, on the eaſt by Surry and Suſſex, on the weſt by Wiltſhire and Dorſetſhire, and on the ſouth by a channel ſeparating it from the iſle of Wight. This iſland, indeed, is included within the county; but we ſhall treat of it ſeparately. The figure of Hampſhire would be pretty exactly ſquare, were it not for a triangular projection at the ſouth-weſt, reſembling the baſtion of a fortification. Excluſive of this part, it is about forty-two miles in length, and thirty-eight in breadth.

This county is conſidered as one of the moſt agreeable in England, and has, from the remoteſt time, ſupported a numerous population. Its ſurface is varied throughout with gently-riſing hills, and fruitful vales and plains. The ridge of chalk-hills may be

traced

traced acroſs it, paſſing in the parallel of Winchester. Its air in the higher parts is clear and pure; towards the ſea mild, and inclined to moiſture. The ſoil is very various, but the greateſt proportion of it is tending to chalk. On the Berkſhire border it is in general deep and of a good ſtaple, producing large crops of corn and fine timber. On approaching the centre the land becomes higher and more chalky, and chiefly fit for barley. On the Dorſetſhire border are vaſt tracts of waſte land covered with heath. The courſes of the rivers are generally fertile meadows; and no county in England is more famous for the management of water-meadows. The products of Hampſhire are fine corn, eſpecially wheat, hops, the planting of which is of late years increaſed, cattle, ſheep, wool, bacon, honey, and timber. The number of ſheep kept in it is very great, and has been eſtimated at 350,000. The original Hampſhire breed is horned and white-faced, but the Southdown have in ſeveral parts obtained the preference. The county is particularly

ticularly famous for hogs, of a large ſort, the fleſh of which gains a ſuperior quality by their feeding on oak and beech maſt in the neighbourhood of the woods. The principal of the foreſts are the *New foreſt*, that of *Eaſt Bere*, and of *Woolmer*, of which the chief parts belong to the crown.

Hampſhire is watered by ſeveral rivers, ſome of which, riſing in the north-eaſt, ſoon quit the county to flow towards the Thames; but the greater number run from north to ſouth acroſs the county.

The *Avon*, from Wiltſhire, coaſts the edge of New foreſt, and enters the Engliſh channel at Chriſtchurch-bay.

The *Teſt*, or *Teſe*, riſes in the north-weſtern part of Hampſhire; and, paſſing Stockbridge and Rumſey, falls into Southampton-bay.

The *Itchen* ſprings near the middle of the county, and, waſhing the city of Wincheſter, empties itſelf into the ſame bay at the town of Southampton.

Parallel to this, another ſmall river falls

into the mouth of this bay below Titchfield.

On tracing the ſea-coaſt from the eaſt, after paſſing an iſland forming part of Chicheſter bay, we come to *Portſea* iſland, a low tract of conſiderable extent, ſeparated from the main by a ſhallow creek over which a bridge is thrown.

On this iſle is ſituated the town of *Portſmouth*, the moſt conſiderable haven for men of war in the kingdom. The capacious harbour is made by a bay, running up between this iſland and an oppoſite peninſula, having a narrow entrance commanded by the town and forts. Portſmouth is the moſt ſtrongly fortified place in Great Britain, and its high importance renders it worthy of every attention. Many of the largeſt ſhips are always laid up here; and in time of war it is the rendezvous of the grand channel fleet. The docks, arſenals, ſtorehouſes, barracks, &c. are all of capital magnitude, and kept in perfect order. The town itſelf is ſupported entirely by the reſort

of

of the army and navy; and the country round, to a great extent, is benefited by the demand for proviſions which they create.

Acroſs the mouth of the harbour is *Goſport*, a populous town, inhabited by ſailors and artificers, and containing a very large naval hoſpital. Off the point of land which terminates this peninſula is the noted road of *Spithead*, where the men of war anchor when prepared for actual ſervice.

From this commences that large inlet of the ſea, ſtretching to the north-weſt, called *Triſſanton-bay*, or *Southampton water*. It is navigable almoſt to the head for veſſels of conſiderable burthen; and the two principal rivers that flow into it admit ſmall craft ſome way up the country. Between them is ſituated the town of *Southampton*, formerly a port of great commerce, and ſtill poſſeſſing a trade in French and Port wines, and having a particular connexion with Guernſey and Jerſey. It is a large and handſome place, and of much reſort for the purpoſe of ſea-bathing. It was on this beach

that Canute gave that ſtriking reproof to his flattering courtiers when the diſobedient tide waſhed his feet; and here the warlike Henry V. muſtered his forces deſtined to the conqueſt of France.

Weſtward from the mouth of this bay lies *Lymington*, a ſmall town upon a creek, at which ſalt is procured from the ſea-water. It is likewiſe a bathing place.

Somewhat further, on a narrow ſpit of land, is *Hurſt Caſtle*, at which Charles I. was confined previouſly to his being brought to trial.

Then ſucceed *Chriſtchurch* bay, and the town of the ſame name, between the mouth of the Avon and the Stour, a populous place, having a manufactory of ſilk ſtockings and gloves. As a port it is inconſiderable.

Inland from hence lies the *New foreſt*, an extenſive woody tract, overrun with deer, which was made or enlarged as a hunting ground by William the Conqueror, whoſe cruelty, in diſpoſſeſſing the natives of their lands and habitations, was ſuppoſed to be avenged

avenged by the caſual death of his ſons Richard and William Rufus, and his grandſon Henry, within its precincts.

Stretch'd on the lawn his ſecond hope ſurvey,
At once the chaſer, and at once the prey.
Lo, Rufus, tugging at the deadly dart,
Bleeds in the foreſt like a wounded hart.

POPE WINDS. FOR.

It is now a great nurſery of the largeſt oaks for the Britiſh navy. Its limits have been much reduced, but it ſtill extends about 20 miles in one direction and 15 in another.

The city of *Wincheſter*, the capital of the county, is a place of as much ancient fame as any in England. Here King John reſided during his troubles, and here was born his ſon Henry III. as was likewiſe Arthur ſon of Henry VII. The ſhell of a palace now exiſting in it was built for Charles II. Its ſee is very rich, and has been filled by many eminent perſons. It has likewiſe a celebrated public ſchool or college. The town is neat and ſpacious; and, though its buildings are ancient, it is inhabited by many

genteel families. Its river is navigable for barges; but it has little trade.

Andover is a populous town, with a manufactory of ſhalloons, and a great malting trade. A canal is nearly finiſhed from it to Red-bridge. The village of *Wey-hill*, in its neighbourhood, has the greateſt fair in England for hops, ſheep, cheeſe, and ſome other commodities.

Rumſey poſſeſſes a manufactory of the ſhalloons called rattinets.

The ſmall town of *Alton* manufactures corded ſtuffs, ſerge denims, &c.

Baſing ſtoke is a conſiderable town, with a great corn-market, and a ſhare in the woollen manufacture. A canal is carried from this town to join the river Wey near Chertſey in Surry. *Baſing-houſe*, a little to the north of it, was held for King Charles in the civil wars, and ſuſtained a long and memorable ſiege.

ISLE OF WIGHT.

THIS fine iſland, in ſhape ſomewhat reſembling a bird with expanded wings, meaſures in length about thirteen miles, in breadth twenty-one. It is nearly divided into two equal parts by the river *Mede*, or *Cowes* river, which, riſing in the ſouthern angle, diſcharges itſelf at the northern into the channel, oppoſite the mouth of Southampton-bay. The eaſtern and weſtern points of the iſland are almoſt cut off from the body by arms of the ſea.

The ſouthern coaſt is edged with very ſteep cliffs of chalk and freeſtone, hollowed out into caverns in various parts. The weſtern ſide is fenced with ridges of rocks, of which the moſt remarkable are thoſe called, from their ſharp extremities, the *Needles*. Between the iſland and the main are various ſand-banks, eſpecially off the eaſtern part, where is the ſafe road of *St. Helen's*.

Acroſs the iſland from eaſt to weſt runs a ridge of hills, forming a tract of fine downs, with a chalky or marly ſoil, which feed a great number of fine-fleeced ſheep. Rabbits are alſo very plentiful here. To the north of this ridge the land is chiefly paſture; to the ſouth of it, is a rich arable country producing great crops of corn.

The variety of proſpects which this iſland affords, its mild air, and the neat manner in which the fields are laid out, render it a very delightful ſpot. It is devoted almoſt ſolely to huſbandry, and has no manufacture. Its annual production is reckoned to be eight or ten times as much as its conſumption; and a number of labourers come over every year to aſſiſt in getting in the harveſt. All kinds of corn are grown, but eſpecially wheat and barley. For the latter, unmalted, it is one of the principal reſources of the London market. Among the products of this iſland are to be reckoned a pure white pipe clay, and a fine white cryſtalline ſand; of the latter of which great quantities

are

are exported for the uſe of the glaſs-works in various parts.

Its principal town is the borough of *Newport*, on the river Cowes, which is navigable to it for ſmall veſſels; but it is a place of little trade. *Cowes*, at the mouth of the river, has a good deal of traffic in ſupplying ſhips with proviſions, eſpecially in time of war. *Yarmouth*, though a borough town, is only a ſmall fiſhing place.

Near the centre of the iſle is *Cariſbrook-caſtle*, remarkable for having been the priſon of Charles I. more than a year, after he came into the power of the Parliament.

DORSETSHIRE.

THIS county has to the north Wiltſhire and Somerſetſhire, to the weſt Devonſhire, to the eaſt Hampſhire, and to the ſouth the Engliſh channel. It is every where irregular in form; its long northern ſide having a great angular projection in the middle, and its ſea-coaſt running out into points and head-lands. From north to ſouth, in the centre, it meaſures thirty-ſix miles; from eaſt to weſt, excluſive of a projection into Devonſhire, above fifty.

Dorſetſhire, from the mildneſs of its air and beauty of its ſituations, has been termed the garden of England. The northern parts are generally level, and were formerly covered with wood; but now are chiefly converted into rich arable and paſture. Acroſs the middle runs a ridge of lofty chalk-hills, upon which, and the Downs declining towards the ſea, for the moſt part of a delightful

DORSETSHIRE.

lightful verdure and ſmoothneſs, feed innumerable multitudes of ſheep, whoſe fine fleeces are uſed in the weſtern woollen manufactures. Dyer has enumerated this tract among the moſt favourite ſpots for the breeding of this uſeful animal.

——————— ſuch, Dorceſtrian fields,
Whoſe flocks innumerous whiten all the land.
FLEECE.

The principal ſheep country is round Dorcheſter, within eight miles of which place near 170,000 ſheep and lambs are ſuppoſed to be kept. Of theſe, about 45,000 are ſold every year. The whole number kept in the county is eſtimated at 800,000, and the annual export at 150,000. Many of the ewes are bought by the farmers within forty miles of London, for the ſake of their lambs, which come earlier than moſt others, and are fattened for the London markets. Beſides the peculiar Dorſetſhire breed, there is a very ſmall kind in the iſle of Portland and Purbeck, and the neighbouring coaſt, inferior in ſize to the Welſh ſheep.

The chalk-hills, which we have traced through every county from the ſouth-eaſtern part of the kingdom, ceaſe in this, no conſiderable beds of it being found further weſtward. On the coaſt, chalk cliffs extend into Devonſhire, about ten miles weſt of Lyme.

From the Hampſhire border to the centre of the county, along the coaſt, runs a heathy common, that takes off from its general fertility; but this is amply compenſated by the rich vales on the ſouth-weſtern ſide. The greater proportion of the land in this county is in paſturage and ſheep downs. The arable is about one third of the whole, and the waſte land about a ninth. The practice of watering meadows is particularly well underſtood in it, and contributes greatly to its fertility.

Dorſetſhire is croſſed from weſt to ſouth-eaſt by two principal rivers. Of theſe, the *Stour* riſes beyond its moſt northerly point, on the edge of Wiltſhire; and, after waſhing Sturminſter and Blandford, flows to the

the Hampſhire border, and enters the ſea at Chriſtchurch in that county. The northern part of its courſe is through an extenſive vale diſtinguiſhed for its rich paſture and dairy land, that of Blackmoor.

The other river is the *Frome*, or *Froom*, which comes from the ſouth-weſtern part of the county to Dorcheſter; from whence, proceeding to Wareham, it there diſcharges itſelf into the bay forming Pool harbour.

The products of Dorſetſhire are corn, cattle, butter, ſheep, wool, timber, flax, and hemp; of which laſt the fineſt in England is ſaid to grow about Bridport. Some of the peculiar products of the ſea coaſt will be noticed in the ſurvey of that part, which we now begin with the town and port of

Poole. This place is ſituated upon a peninſula projecting into a capacious bay, branching into many creeks, and forming ſeveral iſlands. The harbour admits veſſels of moderate ſize only, but for them it is very ſecure. Poole roſe to ſome conſequence ſeveral centuries ago, when the ancient

town

town of Wareham fell into decay. It now ranks high among the ſea-ports of England, and its trade and population are rapidly increaſing. The principal branch of buſineſs here is the Newfoundland fiſhery, to which it ſends annually a large number of veſſels which carry out proviſions and commodities, and bring back cargoes of fiſh caught on the great cod-banks, for Spain, Portugal, and Italy. This port alſo has a large importation of deals from Norway, and a general commerce to America and various parts of Europe. Great quantities of corn are ſent from it coaſtwiſe, and it imports Newcaſtle coal for all the eaſtern part of the county. Near the mouth of Poole harbour lies an oyſter bank, upon which are employed, during the ſeaſon, a number of ſmacks, which carry away vaſt quantities of oyſters to be fattened in the Eſſex and Thames creeks for the London market.

From Poole bay begins the *iſle of Purbeck*, inſulated by the ſea and rivers, a rough and heathy tract, which has been long famous for

for its ſtone quarries. The principal of theſe lie at its eaſtern extremity, near Swanwick, from whence the ſtone is exported. It is of the calcareous kind, but diſtinguiſhed into numerous ſorts, of which the fineſt take a poliſh, and deſerve the name of marble. Theſe are nearly black, and ſome abound in ſhells, and are uſed for chimney-pieces, grave-ſtones, hearths, &c. The coarſer kinds are made uſe of in paving. Tobacco-pipe clay is dug in ſeveral parts of the iſle of Purbeck; the fineſt, near *Corſe-caſtle*, of which much is exported, particularly for the uſe of the Staffordſhire potteries. At this caſtle King Edward, named the Martyr, was ſtabbed in 979 at the inſtigation of his ſtep-mother Alfrith.

Weſt of Purbeck, upon an inlet of the ſea, are the united towns, but diſtinct boroughs, of *Weymouth* and *Melcomb-regis*. The port of Weymouth is injured by the ſand; from which circumſtance, and the riſe of Poole, its trade, which was once conſiderable, is now reduced very low, a few ſhips

ſhips only being ſent from it to Newfoundland. This decline is, however, in ſome degree compenſated to the town by the great reſort to it of perſons of all ranks for the purpoſe of ſea bathing, for which it is excellently fitted by its remarkably fine beach, and the ſoftneſs of its air.—A few plain and ſtriped cottons are made here, and alſo at Abbotſbury.

To the ſouth of this place runs out a rocky promontory called the *iſle of Portland*; though in fact it is a peninſula, joined to the land by a long narrow ſpit of ſand and gravel. This is famous for its vaſt quarries of free-ſtone, of which the whole iſland is compoſed. The ſtone lies on a bed of clay. It is of a calcareous nature, compoſed of grains reſembling ſand, connected by a cementitious matter. The qualities of whiteneſs, ſolidity, durability, freely ſplitting in any direction, and eaſily working, added to its ſtanding the water extremely well, render it one of the moſt valuable freeſtones known. Several of the public and private edifices

edifices in London have been built of it, among which are Whitehall, St. Paul's church, the piers of Weſtminſter bridge, and the whole of Blackfriar's bridge. It is exported in large quantities to various parts of England, Ireland, and France. To the north of the iſle is a ſafe road for ſhips; but its ſouthern point, called the *Race of Portland*, is one of the moſt dangerous places in the Engliſh channel.

Abbotſbury, near the junction of Portland bank to the main, is the centre of a great mackerel fiſhery on this coaſt, which continues from the middle or latter end of March to Midſummer. In the early part of the ſeaſon they are caught by the Corniſh fiſhermen, and purchaſed at ſea by the Abbotſbury and Portland ſmacks. The fiſh is ſent by land, in carts, principally to London and Bath, where, in the beginning of the ſeaſon, they are ſold for extravagant prices: afterwards, the adjacent country is ſupplied with them, and often at very cheap rates. The ſalt water inlet at Abbotſbury

is

is remarkable for being the reſort of multitudes of ſwans.

Bridport, ſituated a little further, on a creek, has a harbour, but ſo choaked with ſand that its ſhipping is inconſiderable. It has, however, a large and thriving manufactory of ſail-cloth, ſacking, cables, ropes, large nets, and cod-lines for the Newfoundland fiſhery, and mackerel nets. Some of the flax and hemp uſed in theſe articles is grown in its neighbourhood, but much more is imported. *Beminſter* largely participates in the ſail-cloth manufactory; and the country round for ſome miles finds employment in ſpinning and preparing the materials.

The laſt harbour in the county is that of *Lyme regis*, on the border of Devonſhire. This town ſtands on the declivity of a craggy hill at the head of a little inlet; and its harbour is formed by a kind of rude pier, called the *Cobb*, behind which ſhips lie in ſafety. It has a Newfoundland and coaſting trade, but greatly on the decline. It is a place of reſort for ſea-bathing. At

Lyme

Lyme landed in 1685 the Duke of Monmouth, for the execution of his ill-judged deſign againſt James II. which terminated in his own deſtruction and that of many others.

The capital of the county, *Dorcheſter*, is a good old town, without manufactures, but particularly famous for its excellent malt liquor, which is exported to moſt parts of the kingdom.

At *Blandford* a conſiderable number of hands are employed in the manufacture of ſhirt buttons, of which more are made here than at any other place in England. They are principally ſent in a wholeſale way to London and other large trading towns.

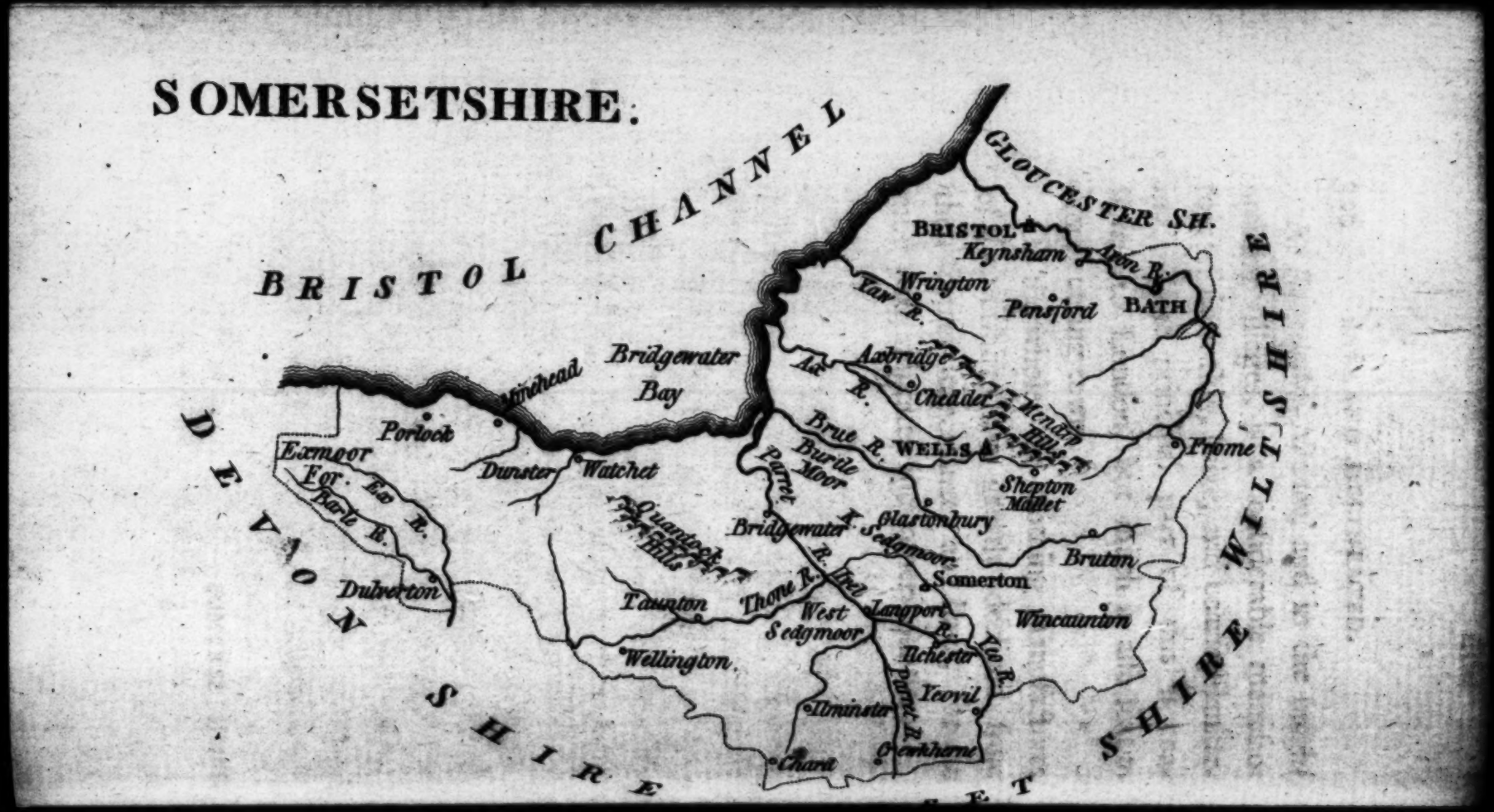
At *Stalbridge*, *Winborne*, and in *Purbeck*, many knit ſtockings, both plain and ribbed, are made.

Shaftſbury, once a place of conſequence, now makes only ſhirt buttons and a few woven ſtockings.

Sherborne has a ſilk mill, which employs a number of people, and alſo a ſmall woollen manufacture. A ſilk mill has likewiſe been erected at *Gillingham*.

At *Sturminſter-Newton*, and in the neighbouring villages, is a conſiderable manufactory of ſwan-ſkin, baize, and coarſe blanketing. The principal part of this is conſigned to London, but much is alſo ſent to other trading towns.

On the whole, the clothing manufactures of Dorſetſhire have greatly declined from their former importance, and have, for the moſt part, migrated into other counties.


SOMERSETSHIRE.
BRISTOL CHANNEL
GLOUCESTER SH.
WILTSHIRE
DEVONSHIRE
BRISTOL
Keynsham
Avon R.
Wrington
Yeo R.
Pensford
BATH
Bridgewater Bay
Axbridge
Axe R.
Cheddar
Mendip Hills
Brue R.
WELLS
Frome
Burtle Moor
Parret R.
Shepton Mallet
Glastonbury
Bridgewater
Sedgmoor
Bruton
Somerton
Langport
Wincanton
Ilchester
Yeo R.
Yeovil
Parret R.
Ilminster
Chard
Porlock
Minehead
Exmoor For.
Exe R.
Barle R.
Dunster
Watchet
Quantock Hills
Dulverton
Taunton
Thone R.
West Sedgmoor
Wellington

SOMERSETSHIRE.

This county, lying in a creſcent-like form on the Briſtol channel, to which its north-weſtern concave ſide is turned, has to the north-eaſt Glouceſterſhire, ſeparated from it in great meaſure by the Avon, to the eaſt Wiltſhire, to the ſouth Dorſetſhire and Devonſhire, and the latter county to the weſt. Its longeſt line from north to ſouth is about forty-five miles; from eaſt to weſt ſixty-five.

Few counties contain a greater variety of ſoil and ſituation than Somerſetſhire. The north-eaſtern quarter is in general ſtony, and poſſeſſes a lofty mineral tract, called the *Mendip-hills*. Towards the centre of the county, where its principal rivers unite, are fens and marſhy moors of great extent. On the weſtern ſide is the ridge of the *Quantock-hills*, together with many downs and open heaths; and in the utmoſt north-weſt-

ern corner lies the bleak ſteril region of *Exmoor*. The ſouthern part, towards Dorſetſhire, is high, but well cultivated: and throughout the county, eſpecially in its ſouth-weſtern quarter, vales are interſperſed of the greateſt fertility, exuberant in arable and paſturage.

The rivers of Somerſetſhire are numerous, but not large, as their whole courſe, for the moſt part, is within the county. The principal are, the *Parret*, which, riſing at the moſt ſouthern part on the Dorſetſhire border, flows northwards, and is joined by the *Ivel* from the eaſt, then by the *Thone* from the weſt, uniting moſt of the rivulets of that part, and afterwards by other ſtreams, with which it empties itſelf into the Briſtol channel at Bridgewater-bay.

Into the ſame bay falls the *Brue*, or *Brent*, which takes its riſe from Selwood foreſt, on the edge of Wiltſhire, and receives ſeveral rivulets, particularly one coming from Shepton-Mallet and Wells.

Further to the north the little river *Ax* mixes with the ſea, after paſſing *Axbridge*.

On the north-eaſt ſeveral ſmall ſtreams run into the *Avon*, which, after waſhing Bath, flows on to become the limit between the counties of Glouceſter and Somerſet, dividing the city of Briſtol, and at length terminating in the Briſtol channel.

The natural and artificial products of this county are various and important.

The Mendip-hills afford in abundance coal, lead, and calamine. The coal is carried upon horſes' backs to Bath, Wells, Frome, and other circumjacent places. The lead is ſaid to be of a harder quality than that of other countries, and is moſtly exported for making bullets and ſhot. The calamine is carried in great quantities to Briſtol and other places, to be uſed in the making of braſs. Copper, manganeſe, bole, and red oker, are alſo found in theſe hills. On their tops are large ſwampy flats, dangerous to croſs.

Below them, on the bank of the Ax, is *Chedder*, celebrated for its cheeſes, which in ſize and richneſs are ſaid to exceed any in

the kingdom. Much cheeſe is made in the lower parts of the county in general; of which a great deal is exported. Many cattle, of bulk nearly equal to the Lincolnſhire, are fed in the luxuriant meadows about the head of the Parret. The beſt gooſe-feathers for beds come from the Somerſet marſhes. Cyder is a common product in this county.

The great vale of Taunton, called *Taunton-Dean*, is peculiarly famous for its fertility, proceeding, as the inhabitants ſay, from ſun and ſoil alone, without the aid of manure.

Beſides theſe advantages given by nature, this county has alſo enjoyed to a great extent the bleſſings of induſtry exerted in a capital manufactory of woollen cloths, which, though ſomewhat declined on account of the rivalſhip of Yorkſhire and other places, is ſtill conſiderable.

Taunton has been the principal ſeat of the manufacture of coarſe woollen goods, ſuch as ſerges, duroys, druggets, &c. This is a large

large and populous town, ſituated on the Thone, which is navigable from hence to the Parret, and ſo to Bridgewater. The manufacturing country extends from Taunton to twenty miles below Exeter. The wool made uſe of is all Engliſh; and the goods are chiefly exported to Holland, Germany, and the ſouth of Europe. Large quantities of malt-liquor are alſo ſent from this town to Briſtol, for exportation. In the laſt century Taunton was the ſcene of many bloody executions by the inhuman Kirk and Jefferies, after the fight at *Sedge-more* in this neighbourhood, where a number of deluded people had appeared in arms to ſupport the attempt of the puſillanimous Duke of Monmouth againſt King James II. Many were ſlain in the ill-ſuſtained ſkirmiſh, and many more were put to death in cold blood by the ſword, and by the unrelenting hand of juſtice.

Frome, on the borders of Wiltſhire, is the next conſiderable town for manufactures. The article chiefly made here, and alſo at

Shepton Mallet, is ſecond cloths, the principal material of which is fine Engliſh wool.

The city of *Wells*, a joint biſhop's ſee with Bath, ſituated under the Mendip-hills, is the centre, together with *Glaſtonbury*, of a great manufactory of knit worſted ſtockings.

About *Chard*, *Ilminſter*, *Yeovil*, and *Crewkerne*, large quantities of coarſe linens, dowlas, and bed-ticking, are made.

Connected with the trading part of the county is the town of *Bridgewater*, on the Parret, placed at ſome diſtance from the ſea, but by means of the high tides enjoying the advantage of a port for veſſels of moderate burthen. It carries on a conſiderable coaſting trade to Briſtol and other places on the Severn and Channel, to Wales and Cornwall. It has likewiſe ſome trade to Ireland; and its port is occaſionally frequented by veſſels from Norway and other parts. Some of the manufactures of the county, and large quantities of cheeſe and other products, are exported from hence. Brick and tile are made here in great quantity,

quantity. A foundry and braziery is alſo eſtabliſhed, which employs a good number of hands.

At the weſtern extremity of the Somerſetſhire coaſt are ſome ſmall ports and fiſhing towns to be mentioned.

Watchet has a pier running out into the Briſtol channel, by which a harbour is made for ſmall veſſels. A few ſloops belonging to this place carry on the Welſh coal trade and the coaſting traffic to Briſtol. Many herrings are caught here by nets fixed on ſtakes along the ſhore. Much lime, poſſeſſed in a peculiar degree of the quality of hardening under water, is burned here. A few coarſe woollens are made in this place and its neighbourhood.

Minehead has a very ſecure harbour formed by a fine pier in the channel, capable of receiving and ſheltering large veſſels. It has little trade of its own, employing only a few brigs and ſloops in the coal and corn trade along the coaſt, and to Ireland. It is much declined, and has almoſt loſt the woollen

woollen manufactory it once poſſeſſed. The herring fiſhery is at preſent one of the principal branches of its buſineſs.

Portlock, further to the weſt, has a harbour for ſmall veſſels, and poſſeſſes a few coaſting ſloops and fiſhing ſkiffs. Below it is *Lee-Mouth*, a fiſhing village. This whole bay, in the months of November and December, is filled with herrings which come to depoſit their ſpawn, and is the rendezvous of moſt of the fiſhing ſmacks belonging to the Briſtol channel. Beſides the fiſh taken by the boats, vaſt quantities are caught in ſmall inlets of the bay, called locks.

The city of *Briſtol*, ſituated on the northern border of this county, is moſt properly referred hither, though the greater part of it lies within the limits of Glouceſterſhire, ſince, before it formed a ſeparate juriſdiction, it was accounted to belong to Somerſetſhire. Briſtol, in wealth, trade, and population, has long been reckoned ſecond to London within this kingdom; and though the cuſtom houſe receipts of Liver-

pool have for ſome time paſt exceeded thoſe of Briſtol, yet the latter may ſtill maintain its place with reſpect to the opulence and number of its inhabitants.

It is ſituated at the conflux of the river Avon with the ſmall ſtream of the Froom, at the diſtance of about ten miles from the place where the Avon diſcharges itſelf into the Severn's mouth. The tide ruſhing with great violence and riſing to a vaſt height in theſe narrow rivers, brings veſſels of conſiderable burthen to the quay of Briſtol, which extends along the inner ſhores of the Froom and Avon. Here at low water they lie a-ground in the mud; which circumſtance, together with various difficulties in navigating to and from the Severn, are the diſadvantages under which this port labours. On this account ſome of the larger ſhips diſcharge part of their lading below. In King-road, at the Avon's mouth, veſſels ride ſecure while waiting for a proper opportunity of entering the river. The great trade of Briſtol is ſupported by its extenſive

ſive inland communications with the Severn and all its branches, the Avon, the Wye, and various other ſtreams. Hence it enjoys the export and import traffic of a large part of the kingdom, and is enabled to find vent for a great variety of manufactures of its own.

The principal branch of the foreign commerce of Briſtol is that to the Weſt Indies. In this between ſeventy and eighty ſhips are conſtantly employed, which carry out every article neceſſary for the clothing and maintenance of the white and black inhabitants of the iſlands, as alſo materials for building, and in particular great quantities of lime burned at St. Vincent's rocks. They bring back ſugar, rum, cotton, and all the other products of thoſe countries. The ſugar is a very great article; and its refinery is one of the capital manufactures of Briſtol, ſerving for the ſupply of all the weſtern counties of England, and all South Wales. The African trade is much leſs connected with the Weſt Indian at this port than at Liverpool.

With

With the north and ſouth of Europe Briſtol has a general trade, of which that with Spain is the moſt important, a quantity of wool, conſiſting of from four to ſix thouſand bags, being annually imported from that country for the uſe of the weſtern clothing manufactures. The return is in a variety of goods, particularly tin, lead, and copper. The traffic with Portugal from this port is likewiſe conſiderable. Briſtol has alſo a ſhare in the trade to the continent of America and Newfoundland; and an extenſive commerce with Ireland.

The manufactures of this city and its vicinity furniſh it with ſeveral important articles of exportation. The glaſs-making, in its ſeveral articles of crown, flint, and bottle glaſs, is very conſiderable, and on the increaſe. Ireland and America take off great quantities of theſe goods, eſpecially bottles, of which nearly half the number are ſent out filled with beer, cyder, perry, and Briſtol water. The copper and braſs manufactures were of capital importance, but

are

are now much declined in conſequence of a monopoly. Hard white ſoap, of the beſt quality, is made here in large quantities, much of which is ſent to London, as well as to the colonies abroad. Hats, leather, both tanned and dreſſed in oil, ſaddlery and ſhoes, white lead, gunpowder, and earthen ware, are all conſiderable articles of domeſtic and foreign traffic. The city likewiſe poſſeſſes works for ſmelting lead and making lead ſhot, iron founderies, rolling and ſlitting mills, and tin works, all which furniſh very valuable commodities for exportation. Its former woollen manufactures are at an end.

Some of the principal commodities of the ſurrounding country, exported from Briſtol, are, cheeſe, cyder and beer, a few coals, herrings taken in the Channel, ſalt from Droitwich, coarſe woollens and ſtockings, hardware from Birmingham and Wolverhampton, and earthen-ware from Staffordſhire. In the exportation of theſe laſt articles, however, Liverpool has greatly gained

gained upon Briſtol, chiefly on account of the ſuperiority of the canal navigations to that town, above the difficult and uncertain navigation of the Severn.

Briſtol is cloſely built; but, like other opulent towns, is now extending itſelf into its ſuburbs by new and more airy ſtreets.

The Briſtol *hot wells* are mentioned under Glouceſterſhire.

Though the trading towns of Somerſetſhire are thus important, they have not conferred ſo much celebrity upon it as that great mart of health and pleaſure, the city of *Bath*. This place, from the time of the Romans, has been known and frequented for its hot ſprings, which are the moſt remarkable in England, and inferior to few in Europe. They are uſed both externally as baths, and internally as a medicine; and great benefits are daily received from them in gouty, paralytic, bilious and a variety of other caſes. Bath has long been a place of great concourſe; and the reputation of its waters, or the faſhion of uſing them, is ſo much

much increaſed of late years, that it is become the principal reſort in the kingdom, next to the metropolis, for the nobility and gentry; and the conſtant reſidence of many opulent invalids, as well as of numerous votaries of diſſipation. In ſplendour and elegance of buildings it exceeds every town in England; an advantage greatly owing to the white ſtone of which they are conſtructed, and of which the ſoil around is chiefly compoſed. Bath is ſituated in a valley; which circumſtance, with the reflection of the ſun's rays from the white ſoil, renders it extremely hot in ſummer. The principal ſeaſons for the waters are ſpring and autumn.

Among the hiſtorical events of this county may be mentioned two great battles fought near *Pen* below Selwood foreſt; in one of which the Britons were entirely defeated by the Weſt-Saxons; and in the other the Danes were completely overthrown by King Edmund Ironſide.

A river-iſland called *Athelney*, at the conflux of the Thone and Parret, is memorable for

for having given ſhelter amidſt its inacceſſible moraſſes to the great Alfred, after a defeat he ſuſtained from the Danes.

At *Lanſdown* near Bath a pitched battle was fought in 1643 between the forces of Charles I. and the Parliament, in which the victory was undecided.

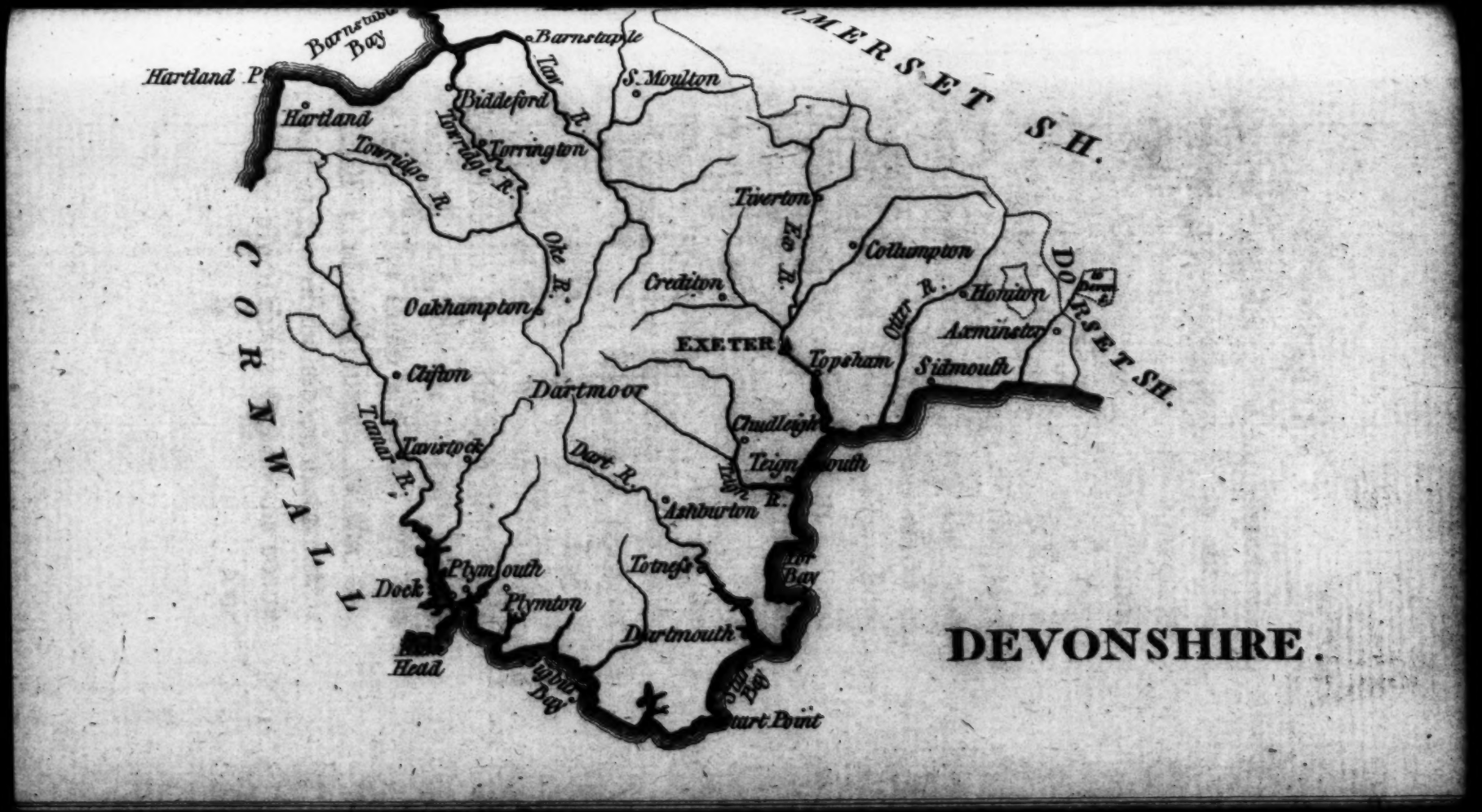
DEVONSHIRE.

THE county of Devon, in ſize the ſecond in England, lies between two ſeas, having to the north and north-weſt the Briſtol channel, and to the ſouth and ſouth-eaſt the Engliſh channel. Its weſtern ſide borders upon Cornwall, from which it is ſeparated almoſt the whole way by the river Tamar; and its eaſtern ſide upon the counties of Somerſet and Dorſet. Its figure is nearly rhomboidal. From the moſt ſoutherly to the moſt northerly point it meaſures near ſeventy miles, and from eaſt to weſt ſixty-four.

The ſoil and face of country in this large ſpace are various. From the borders of Dorſetſhire to Exeter, and moſt of the country towards the ſouthern coaſt, is very fertile and pleaſant. Here are ſituated what Dyer terms

——————— Devon's myrtle vales,
That drink clear rivers near the glaſſy ſea.
FLEECE.

For


Barnstaple Bay
Barnstaple
Hartland P.
Hartland
Biddeford
Tar R.
S. Moulton
Torridge R.
Torrington
Townridge R.
Tiverton
Exe R.
Collumpton
Crediton
Oke R.
Oakhampton
Otter R.
Honiton
Axminster
EXETER
Topsham
Sidmouth
Clifton
Dartmoor
Tamar R.
Lawistock
Chudleigh
Dart R.
Teign R.
Ashburton
Plymouth
Dock
Totness
Plymton
Dartmouth
Head
Bay
Start Point
SOMERSET SH.
DORSET SH.
CORNWALL
DEVONSHIRE.

For ſuch is the mildneſs of the climate that the myrtle grows unſheltered on the ſea ſhore. This tract has become a favourite reſort for invalids, particularly thoſe diſpoſed to pulmonary complaints, who paſs their winters here often with more comfort than in the ſouth of Europe. A large diſtrict called the *South Hams*, ſtretching from the river Teign under the Dartmoor hills acroſs to Plymouth, is almoſt unrivalled throughout the kingdom for the richneſs of its ſoil and abundance of products. It is the principal granary of theſe parts.

From Exeter, acroſs the county to the edge of Cornwall, lies the wide barren tract of *Dartmoor*, a ruſhy naked moraſs, bounded on the north by bleak hills. This ſort of country, ſandy or clayey, wet, and ſteril, extends northwards quite through the centre of the county, and, on the Corniſh border, to the ſea. Many ſheep are bred here, but of a ſmall kind, and ſubject to the rot. The chief riches of the inhabitants are their black cattle, which thrive well on the coarſe

ſour herbage; and, after being fattened in better paſtures, are driven in great numbers to Smithfield market. Tin was formerly procured in great quantity on the weſtern line of the county; but the trade in that metal has now almoſt entirely migrated into Cornwall.

The north-eaſtern part adjoining Exmoor in Somerſetſhire, is in general a dry heathy ſoil, with mines of copper, lead, and other minerals.

The climate of Devonſhire is too much inclined to moiſture, on account of its poſition between two ſeas; and for that reaſon its products are apt to be leſs perfect. Much of the cyder made in it is of a harſh ſour, and watery nature, to which qualities is commonly imputed a kind of ſevere colic prevalent among the lower claſs of people; though ſome attribute this diſtemper to the lead of the cyder-preſſes, diſſolved by the acid liquor. Devonſhire upon the whole is more of a feeding than a corn-growing country, poſſeſſing ſome excellent native breeds

breeds of horned cattle, of which the North-Devon is particularly famous. Much butter is made in the graſs-lands, which is prepared after a peculiar proceſs without the uſe of the churn.

This county is watered by many rivers, ſome of which diſcharge themſelves into the northern, and ſome into the ſouthern ſea. Of the former there are two which unite the reſt, and flow together into Barnſtaple bay. Theſe are, the *Towridge*, which, riſing near the ſea on the Corniſh border, runs ſouth-eaſtward to Hatherleigh, and then meeting with the *Oke* from Okehampton, turns ſhort to the north, and paſſes Torrington and Biddeford;—and the *Taw*, which, taking its riſe from the centre of the county, flows on to Barnſtaple, and then turns weſterly to join the Towridge at its mouth.

Of the rivers running into the ſouthern ſea, or Engliſh channel, one of the principal is the *Ex*. This has its ſource in Exmoor; and leaving Somerſetſhire below

Dulverton, proceeds by Tiverton to Exeter; widening from Topſham into an arm of the ſea which terminates at Exmouth.

To the weſt of this is the Teign, compoſed of two branches, which, uniting, join the ſea at Teignmouth. Then ſucceeds the *Dart*, which riſes in the hills of Dartmoor, and, flowing rapidly ſouthwards, paſſes Totneſs, whence it ſpreads into the arm which forms Dartmouth-haven.

The *Tamar* takes its origin near that of the Towridge, not far from the Briſtol channel; and, flowing ſouthwards in a gently winding courſe, forms the boundary between Cornwall and Devonſhire, except in one place, where the latter county throws out a horn like projection. Below Saltaſh it becomes an arm of the ſea, ending in Plymouth Sound.

We ſhall begin the ſurvey of the ſea-coaſts of Devonſhire with that of the Engliſh channel. This coaſt in general may be ſaid to conſiſt of numbers of bays, not deeply incurvated, bounded by head-lands,

often

often of a reddiſh indurated clay or ſandſtone. The ſhores are flat, gravelly, or ſandy. The country within riſes and breaks into fine lofty inequalities. Chalk is found upon the coaſt at different places as far as ten miles weſt of Lyme. About Dartmouth is a Limeſtone, which continues to Plymouth.

On proceeding from Dorſetſhire, the firſt place on the coaſt deſerving notice is *Sidmouth*, a fiſhing town frequented for ſea-bathing.

Then ſucceeds the broad mouth of the Ex, which admits laden ſhips of three hundred tons, by the aſſiſtance of the tide, through a ſomewhat difficult channel, as far as *Topſham*, a conſiderable town, ſerving as the port of Exeter. Veſſels of one hundred tons, however, can proceed as far as the ſpacious quay of that city.

Exeter, the capital of Devonſhire, is the principal city for ſize and conſequence in the weſt of England; and is at the ſame time the reſidence of many families of gentry, and the ſeat of an extenſive foreign

and domeſtic commerce. The trade of Exeter conſiſts principally in the exportation of coarſe woollen goods manufactured in the counties of Devon, Cornwall, and a part of Somerſet. Theſe are ſold, as they come from the loom, to the merchants of Exeter, who procure them to be milled, dyed and finiſhed, and afterwards export them. Theſe goods chiefly conſiſt of articles little conſumed in England, as druggets, duroys, long-ells, and ſerges. The markets for them are, firſt Italy, then Spain, Germany, Holland, Portugal, and lately France. The average annual value exported is reckoned at 600,000 *l.* Beſides this, the Eaſt India Company takes off a quantity of long-ells amounting to the value of about 105,000 *l.* of which about a fourth part are ſhipped at Exeter; the remainder at Dartmouth and Plymouth. For making theſe woollens, about four thouſand bags of wool are imported at Exeter from Kent. The reſt of the wool made uſe of is the product of Devonſhire and the neighbouring counties.

Exeter

Exeter likewiſe imports dying drugs, wine, and fruit, from Spain and Italy; linens from Germany; and hemp, iron, timber and tallow, from the Baltic. It ſends ſhips to the Newfoundland and Greenland fiſheries. It ſupplies the country round with coal both from the northern collieries and from Wales; and it has an exportation of corn, eſpecially oats, to London.

Teignmouth, a creek reckoned part of the port of Exeter, ſends a number of veſſels to the Newfoundland fiſhery, and has a conſiderable coaſting trade, eſpecially in carrying vaſt quantities of tobacco-pipe clay to Liverpool, whence are brought back coals, ſalt, earthen-ware, &c.

Farther to the ſouth-weſt is *Torbay*, a ſemicircular baſon, which has frequently been the reſort of our fleets in time of war. Here, on November 5th, 1688, landed the Prince of Orange, on his glorious expedition to deliver this nation from the attempts of a tyrannical bigot againſt its laws and religion.

At

At *Brixham*, within this bay, are kept a large number of ſloops for the ſole purpoſe of trawling, by which the beſt flat fiſh, as turbots, ſoals, and plaice, beſides great quantities of whiting, piper, gurnet, and other fiſh, which frequent that coaſt, are taken ſome leagues out at ſea. This buſineſs is continued throughout the year; and the fiſh ſo caught are ſent by land carriage to various markets, as London, Bath, Briſtol, and Exeter.

On turning the next point, appears the ſpacious haven of *Dartmouth*, capable of ſheltering a large number of ſhips. The town has a conſiderable trade to the ſouthern parts of Europe and Newfoundland, as well as in the coaſting traffic.

The coaſt continues to run ſouthwards as far as the *Start point*, after which it turns to the north-weſt. Several ſmall harbours and creeks fill up the ſpace from this point to Plymouth ſound.

Plymouth is, next to Portſmouth, the moſt conſiderable harbour of England for men

of war, and is a frequent rendezvous of the Channel fleet in time of war. It is thought to be well fortified, though in the late war, when the combined fleets of France and Spain appeared off the coaſt, the means of defence were found to have been ſo ſhamefully neglected, that it could have made no reſiſtance if attacked. The harbour is double, and particularly excellent. That called *Hamoaze* is capable of containing a great quantity of ſhipping, and is fitted with moorings for eighty ſail. Here are docks, arſenals, and all the conveniencies for building and fitting out ſhips of war. The *dock* forms a ſeparate town, now large and populous from the number of artificers in conſtant employ. Plymouth itſelf is a populous town, and carries on conſiderable trade, domeſtic and foreign.

Some miles at ſea, off Plymouth ſound, is *Eddyſtone lighthouſe*, a remarkable ſtructure, erected upon a rock, which is covered at high water.

The Devonſhire coaſt on the Briſtol channel is next to be conſidered.

On

On advancing from Somerſetſhire we come firſt to *Comb Martin*, once famous for a lead mine abounding in ſilver, now no longer wrought.

Ilfracombe has a ſpacious baſon, formed by a good pier running out into the Briſtol channel. The high tides here allow large veſſels to enter the harbour. This port employs a number of brigs and ſloops chiefly in carrying ore from Cornwall, coals from Wales, and corn to Briſtol. A number of fiſhing ſkiffs belong to the place, which, with thoſe of Minehead, fiſh on a bank off the coaſt during the ſummer, and take a number of ſoals, turbot, &c. for the Briſtol market.

Farther weſtward is Barnſtaple bay, the entrance to the rivers Taw and Towridge, which unite juſt before they reach the ſea. The town of *Barnſtaple* is ſituated about twelve miles up the former river, and that of *Biddeford* about ſix miles up the latter. The navigation to Biddeford is much eaſier than to Barnſtaple, and will admit with ſafety

ſafety ſhips of 300 tons burden. To both places belong a conſiderable number of brigs and ſloops, which are chiefly employed in the Welſh coal-trade, and in carrying corn to Briſtol. Some of theſe trade to Ireland, from whence they bring yarn for the uſe of the manufactures of this county. Only three veſſels are now employed in the Newfoundland trade, which is the only eſtabliſhed foreign commerce theſe towns have. A number of boats employed in the herring-fiſhery lie at *Clovely*, a ſmall harbour with a pier in the bay.

The promontory of *Hartland point*, frequented by the herring-fiſhers, nearly terminates the Devonſhire coaſt on this ſide.

Of the inland towns of Devonſhire it will be ſufficient to mention a few, the moſt conſiderable for trade.

Tiverton upon the Ex is reckoned the principal of theſe, and comes next to Exeter in its traffic in the woollen manufactures.

Crediton poſſeſſes a conſiderable manufactory of ſerges.

In

In *Honiton* are made quantities of the broadeſt laces in the kingdom. It is obſervable that the three above-mentioned towns have ſuffered greatly at different times, and ſome very lately, by fire. This has been the caſe alſo with other towns in this county.

Totneſs, *Aſhburton*, and *Columpton*, have likewiſe a ſhare in the different woollen manufactures, which extend over the eaſtern and middle parts of Devonſhire.

Axminſter partakes in the ſame, and has beſides of late years become famous for its carpet manufactory.

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CORNWALL.

This county, forming the ſouth-weſtern extremity of Great Britain, is every where ſurrounded by the ſea, except on its eaſtern ſide, which borders upon Devonſhire; from which county, however, it is ſeparated by the river Tamar; ſo that it is very nearly a complete iſland. It is of an angular figure, growing gradually narrower from eaſt to weſt, and terminating at laſt in a point. From the weſtern extremity, called *Land's end*, to the Devonſhire border, meaſures ninety miles: the ſide contiguous to Devon meaſures above fifty, but the breadth very ſoon contracts to thirty, and near the Land's end does not exceed ſeven.

Thus detached as Cornwall is by ſituation from the reſt of England, it was formerly ſtill further ſeparated by the uſe of a totally different language, a dialect of the Armorican, and related to the Welſh. This language

guage has for two or three centuries ceaſed to be common, and is now utterly extirpated; but the proper names of the county ſtill exhibit a ſtriking difference from thoſe of Engliſh origin.

Cornwall, from its ſoil, appearance, and climate, is one of the leaſt inviting of the Engliſh counties. A ridge of bare rugged hills, intermixed with bleak moors, runs through the midſt of its whole length, and, in the narroweſt parts, extends from ſide to ſide. The low grounds between the hills and the ſea are, in ſome parts, rendered ſufficiently fertile by the aid of manure derived from the ſea-ſand and weeds of the beach; but the ſaltneſs of the atmoſphere, and violence of the winds, will ſcarcely ſuffer trees, or even hedges, to grow near the ſhore; ſo that almoſt the whole county has a naked and deſolate appearance. The air is made extremely moiſt by the ſurrounding body of water; and the high lands in the centre intercept the miſts and clouds in their paſſage; ſo that rains or fogs

fogs are almoſt daily experienced. At the ſame time the winds are continually ſhifting with violence from one point to another; which circumſtance, while it increaſes the mutability of the weather, has a favourable effect in preventing thoſe ſtagnations of damp air which are ſo prejudicial to health in ſome wet countries. The winters here are very mild, ſnow ſeldom lying more than two or three days, and froſts being of ſhort duration; ſo that myrtles and other ſouthern plants are able to live the year round in the open air. On the other hand the ſummers are cool, and the autumns too wet to bring to perfect maturity the fruits of the earth. The grain which ſucceeds beſt is barley, of which very large crops are produced on the banks of the Camel and in its neighbourhood. Potatoes alſo yield abundantly in ſome lands, and ſeem peculiarly calculated for the climate. Good cyder is made on the eaſtern ſide of the county.

But it is to its mineral treaſures, and the

ſhoals of fiſh upon its coaſt, that Cornwall is indebted for its populouſneſs and relative importance. From early antiquity this county has been noted for the tin which it produced, and which was an object of commerce to civilized nations, while Britain was a land of barbarians. Tin mines are diſperſed over the greateſt part of Cornwall; and the quantity procured is greater than in any other part of the world. The demand for this metal is diminiſhed by the introduction of earthen-ware inſtead of pewter (which is principally compoſed of tin), for the uſe of the table; yet great quantities of tin are ſtill employed for a variety of purpoſes: and it forms an object of conſiderable conſequence both in domeſtic and foreign commerce. In particular, a large exportation to China and the Eaſt Indies has lately taken place, which has given new activity to the mining buſineſs. The Prince of Wales, who is alſo Duke of Cornwall, derives a revenue from the tin; and there are particular laws and regulations

for

for the working, refining, and exporting of this commodity.

Very valuable copper-mines are alſo wrought in this county, the ore of which is ſent to Swanſea and other places for ſmelting. Lead, lapis calaminaris, and other metallic ſubſtances, are likewiſe found here; as well as ſoap-rock, and clays of remarkable purity, excellent for the potter's uſe, and fine rock cryſtals.

Of the great variety of fiſh on the Corniſh coaſts none is ſo conſiderable an object of commerce as the pilchard, which appears in immenſe ſhoals during the ſummer and autumn, chiefly on the ſouthern ſide. The pilchard fiſhery is carried on at St. Ives on the northern coaſt: on the ſouthern in Mountſbay; thence eaſtward at St. Mawes, Mevagiſſey, and quite to the Devonſhire coaſt. Many boats and men are employed in it; and, beſides the great ſupply theſe fiſh afford to the miners and other poor of Cornwall, great quantities are cured and exported, principally up the

Mediterranean. Of late years the ſhoals of pilchards have been leſs conſtant and plentiful than formerly, and ſuch loſſes have been ſuſtained, that the fiſhery is now in a declining condition.

Of the farming products of this county it is ſufficient to mention that draught oxen and ſwine are ſent from it in ſome numbers.

The rivers of Cornwall are all ſmall, their courſe to the ſea being every where ſo ſhort. They require no other notice than as they are connected with the harbours.

We ſhall now proceed to a ſurvey of its ſea-coaſt and its principal towns; premiſing that Cornwall poſſeſſes more parliamentary boroughs than any other county in the kingdom, its repreſentatives being forty-four in number. Moſt of theſe places are now very inconſiderable, exhibiting a melancholy proof of the preſent great inequality of repreſentation in the kingdom; an evil which, though the greateſt wiſdom may find it difficult to correct, yet ſophiſtry alone can deny to be real and alarming.

On coaſting the northern ſide of Cornwall from the Devonſhire border, after paſſing *Boſſiney*, ſaid to be the birth-place of the renowned King Arthur, we come to a conſiderable inlet of the ſea, called *Padſtow haven*. Into this falls the river *Camel*, flowing from *Camelford*. The harbour of Padſtow is choaked with ſand, and the town only poſſeſſes a trade in herrings and ſlates. It has a conſiderable manufacture of ſerges, &c.

A long range of broken coaſt ſucceeds, to *St. Ives bay*, which affords a tolerable harbour to the town of that name, formerly a conſiderable place, but now ſubſiſting chiefly by the coaſt trade and pilchard fiſhery.

At *Hayle*, an inlet from this bay, much of the copper ore raiſed in Cornwall is ſmelted; and the place is much frequented by the coaſting veſſels.

From hence the land ſoon begins to turn; and after *Cape Cornwall* appears the moſt weſterly point of the iſland, *Land's-*

end, a vaſt aggregate of moor-ſtone. All the coaſt hereabouts is compoſed of rag-ſtone, with a little limeſtone intermixed. On proceeding eaſtwards along a range of high broken cliffs, *Mountſbay* firſt occurs, ſo called from a lofty peninſulated rock within it, named *Mount St. Michael*. Among the rocks on this part of the coaſt breeds the Corniſh chough, or red-legged crow, remarkable for its property of ſtealing and carrying away whatever it finds; whence it has been accidentally a cauſe of the firing of houſes by lighted brands conveyed to the roofs. In this bay ſtands the town of *Penzance*, a populous place, having a conſiderable traffic in ſhipping. On the ſhore of the bay the veins of tin and copper are viſible as far as the land extends, even to low water mark. It is one of the tin-coinage towns.

Helſtone, upon a rivulet which joins the ſea a little further eaſt, is alſo one of the towns in which tin is ſtamped.

The *Lizard point*, from whence ſhips leaving

leaving the channel take their departure, is the moſt ſouthern land in Great Britain, being ſomewhat below the fiftieth degree of latitude.

Further on is *Helford harbour*, an inlet very convenient for trading veſſels of all burdens. Into it empties *Gweek* river, which riſes near Helſtone.

The next remarkable object is *Falmouth haven*, a noble and moſt extenſive harbour, communicating with a number of navigable creeks. *Falmouth* is a flouriſhing town of great traffic, which has been much improved by its being appointed the ſtation of the packets to Spain, Portugal, and America.

Penryn, on a creek in this harbour, has a conſiderable trade in the pilchard and Newfoundland fiſheries.

Truro, at the very head of the ſame harbour, is one of the beſt towns in Cornwall, and the reſidence of many genteel families. Its chief buſineſs is in ſhipping tin and copper ore, found in abundance in the pariſhes north and ſouth of the road lead-

ing from hence to Redruth. It was here that the weſtern forces of Charles I under Lord Hopeton, ſurrendered to General Fairfax, who, with great military ſkill, had driven them (after the battle of Naſeby) from Exeter quite into this toe of England, and foiled all their attempts to paſs him.

On returning to the coaſt, and proceeding eaſtward beyond *Deadman's Point*, lies *Fowey* or *Foy*, upon the river *Fowey*, which is one of the moſt conſiderable in Cornwall. It has a great ſhare in the pilchard fiſhery.

Leſtwithiel, on the ſame river, has loſt its convenience of navigation by means of the ſand which has choaked up the channel. It has a woollen manufactory, and is one of the tin coinage towns. Here the infantry of the parliament army under the Earl of Eſſex were in 1644 compelled to ſurrender to the king's troops.

The extremity of the Corniſh coaſt this way is the *Ram-head*, at the mouth of the *Tamar*. A little way up this river on the Corniſh ſide lies *Saltaſh*, which has a trade in malt

malt and beer, and derives conſiderable benefit from its neighbourhood to Plymouth.

Near the bank of the Tamar, pretty far inland, is ſituated the capital of the county, *Launceſton*, a populous old town, containing nothing remarkable.

Bodmin, a decayed town near the centre of the county, has, on account of its poſition, been choſen for the place of holding the ſummer aſſizes.

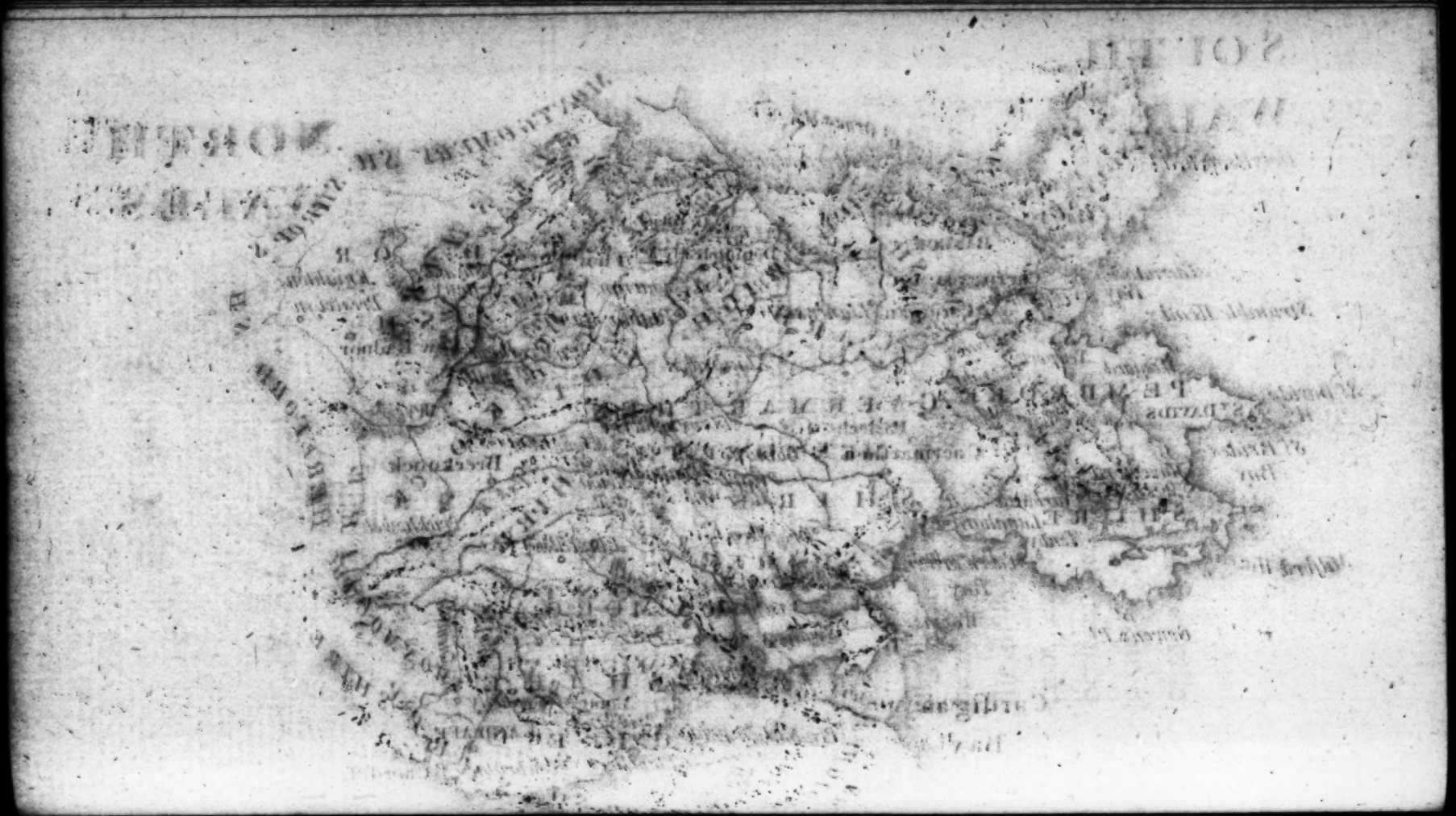
St. Auſtle, between Grampound and Leſtwithiel, though not a borough town, is the centre of much buſineſs, on account of its ſituation in the midſt of ſome of the principal tin mines in the county.

At *Stratton*, in the north-eaſtern part of the county, a battle was fought in 1643, in which the forces of King Charles were victorious over thoſe of the parliament.

About ten leagues to the weſt of the Land's-end, and eaſily ſeen from it, lie the *Scilly Iſlands*, a group of numerous rocks and iſlets, of which five or ſix only are inhabited. They are ſuppoſed formerly to have produced

duced much tin, but at preſent are chiefly known as a reſort of ſea-fowl and a place of ſhelter for ſhips in adverſe winds. The inhabitants principally ſubſiſt by fiſhing, burning kelp, and officiating as pilots. The chief of the iſlands is *St. Mary's*, which has a good port. The Scilly rocks have been fatal to numbers of ſhips entering the channel. One of the moſt diſaſtrous events of this kind happened in 1707, when Admiral Sir Cloudeſley Shovel with three men of war periſhed with all the crews.

SOUTH
WALES.
Cardigan Bay
Aberistruth
Rheidol R.
Istwyth R.
Plynlimmon Hill
Wye R.
MONTGOMERY SH.
SHROP S.
RADNOR
Rhyader-gowy
Ithon R.
Knighton
Prestaign
SH.
New Radnor
Tregarron
Ystwyth R.
Lyn R.
Teify R.
CARDIGAN
Cardigan
Teify R.
Strumble Head
Kilgarran
Newport
Fishguard
Llanbeder
Iron R.
BRECKNOCK
Builth
Wye R.
St. David's Head
St. DAVIDS
PEMBROKE
CAERMARTHEN
Llanym Dovry
St. Brides Bay
Haverford West
Caermarthen
Llandilo
Llangadoc
Taw R.
Brecknock
SHIRE
Usk R.
Crickhowel
Tarbarth
Langharne
Teify R.
SHIRE
SHIRE
Tenby
Milford Haven
Caermarthen Bay
Llanelly
Tawy R.
Neath R.
Rumney R.
MONMOUTH SHIRE
HEREFORD SH.
GLAMORGAN
Worms Head
Gowens Pt
Swansey
Neath
Taff R.
Mumbles Point
SHIRE
Caerphilly
Bridgend
LANDAFF
Cowbridge
Cardiff



NORTH
WALES.
of Seals
Holyhead
ANGLESEY
Beaumaris
Conway
BANGOR
Caernarvon
Caernarvon Bay
Snowdon Hill
CAERNARVONSHIRE
Criccieth
Harlech
MERIONETH
Pimble Meer
Bala
Dolgellen
Barmouth
SHIRE
Cader Idris
Dinas mowddwy
Cardigan Bay
Dovy
Machynleth
Plynlimmon Hill
CARDIGANSH.
Rhuddlan
St Asaph
Denbigh
DENBIGHSHIRE
Llanrwst
Ruthin
FLINTSHIRE
Flint
Mold
Wrexham
CHESHIRE
Dee R.
Llangollen
Berwyn Mount.
Hanmer
Tanat R.
Llanvillin
MONTGOMERYSHIRE
Severn R.
Vyrnew R.
Welch Pool
Montgomery
Llanidloes
SHROPSH.

WALES IN GENERAL.

THE principality of Wales, long an independent and ſeparate country from England, and ſtill entirely differing from it in language, and in ſeveral reſpects in manners and cuſtoms, is ſtrongly marked out by nature as a detached diſtrict, characterized by an almoſt continued range of mountains more or leſs wild and lofty, and interjacent vallies more or leſs extenſive and fertile. It occupies all the central part of the weſtern coaſt, and the country inland to a moderate diſtance; having its northern and ſouthern limits well defined by the projecting line of coaſt from the Dee to Angleſey on the one hand, and the wide entrance of the Briſtol channel on the other. The ancient internal dimenſions of Wales have been contracted by taking from it the whole county of Monmouth, and a part of ſeveral of the adjacent Engliſh counties. At preſent

it conſiſts of twelve ſmall or middle-ſized counties; ſix of which are reckoned to belong to North, and ſix to South Wales. In general population and fertility the latter diviſion has the ſuperiority. All the Welſh counties except three touch the ſea coaſt in ſome part of their boundary. The climate is mild near the ſea, but very wet. The interior parts have the uſual ſharpneſs of mountainous regions.

FLINTSHIRE.

THIS ſmall county, which conſiſts of a narrow ſlip of land, running from north-weſt to ſouth-eaſt, is bounded by the Iriſh ſea on the north, by the eſtuary of the Dee and the county of Cheſter on the north-eaſt and eaſt, and by Denbighſhire on the ſouth and weſt. A detached part belongs to it, at ſome miles diſtance from the reſt, ſeparated by the interpoſition of Denbighſhire, and almoſt encircled by Shropſhire and Cheſhire. The main portion of Flintſhire is about twenty-eight miles in length, and no where above ten in breadth, generally much leſs.

The land riſes pretty rapidly from the ſhore of the Dee to a ridge of hills running for a conſiderable way parallel to that river. The low part has a clayey ſoil, producing corn and graſs plentifully; and is well ſtocked with wood. It abounds alſo with coal

coal and free-ſtone. The hills are barren on the ſurface, but rich within in mines of lead and calamine, with vaſt ſtrata of limeſtone. The northern extremity of the county is a flat tract, growing much corn, eſpecially wheat; of which a good deal is exported to Liverpool. The ſouthern part is agreeably varied with hill and dale, and affords the view of ſeveral ruined caſtles. The vale of Mold in this part is uncommonly rich and beautiful. On the Denbighſhire ſide the county is backed by a lofty chain of mountains, overlooking the vale of Clwyd.

The disjoined piece of Flintſhire, conſiſting of the hundred of *Maelor Saeſneg*, is moſtly a level tract, though varied with gentle riſings.

Of the ſmall rivers of this county, the moſt remarkable is the *Allen*, which near Mold ſinks under ground and is loſt for a ſhort ſpace. The rivers of the vale of Clwyd have their exit in Flintſhire.

The commercial importance of Flintſhire is

is almoſt ſolely derived from its mineral productions. The lead ore is ſmelted upon the ſpot, and the metal is exported from Cheſter. Some kinds of the ore contain ſilver enough to repay with profit the expenſe of ſeparating it from the lead; and ſeveral thouſand ounces of ſilver have been annually extracted in this county, which is chiefly uſed by the manufacturers of Birmingham and Sheffield. The calamine is partly exported, and partly uſed in a braſs foundry at Holywell. From the coal-pits in the ſouth-eaſtern part of the county the city of Cheſter is in a great meaſure ſupplied. Near Northop are conſiderable potteries, at which are made large quantities of coarſe earthen ware, exported to the Welſh coaſt and Ireland.

Of the towns few deſerve particular mention.

The capital, *Flint*, is a very ſmall place without trade. There are large remains of its caſtle, in which the unhappy King Richard II. was delivered into the hands of his rival, Bolingbroke.

The

The diminutive city of *St. Aſaph*, pleaſantly ſituated near the lower extremity of the Vale of Clwyd, contains nothing remarkable.

At the mouth of the river Clwyd is the little port of *Rhuddlan*, acceſſible only to ſmall veſſels. On a marſh in its neighbourhood was fought in 795 a battle between the Saxons and Welſh, in which the latter were defeated, with the loſs of their prince Caradoc; and the event was conſidered as ſo diſaſtrous, that a plaintive tune, ſtill popular in Wales, was compoſed on the occaſion.

Holywell, from its vicinity to the mines, though in great part a new town, is now the moſt flouriſhing in this county. It takes its name from the famed well of St. Winifred, concerning which ſo many fables and ſuperſtitious notions have prevailed. It is in fact a moſt copious ſtream of very cold and pure water, burſting out of the ground with great impetuoſity at the foot of a high hill. Beſides the cold bath, celebrated for wonderful

ful cures, formed at the ſpring head, and covered with a beautiful gothic ſhrine, it is now applied to the purpoſe of turning ſeveral mills for the working of copper, making braſs wire, paper, and ſnuff, and ſpinning cotton; which various branches give great employment to the town and neighbourhood.

The county aſſizes are held at the neat little town of *Mold*.

DENBIGHSHIRE.

THIS county runs parallel to Flintſhire, but its extent is much greater. On the north it juſt touches upon the Iriſh ſea. The north-eaſtern ſide is contiguous to Flintſhire and Cheſhire, the ſouth-eaſtern to Shropſhire. From ſouth to north-weſt it is ſucceſſively bounded by the three counties of Montgomery, Merioneth, and Caernarvon. From this laſt it is ſeparated by the river Conway, though not accurately, the promontory of the Great Ormes-head being in Caernarvonſhire, though on the eaſtern ſide of the river. Its extreme length is forty-eight miles, its greateſt breadth not above eighteen, and in the middle much leſs.

In Denbighſhire the rugged and mountainous character of Wales is conſpicuouſly apparent, though ſoftened by a conſiderable mixture of fertility and beauty. At the ſouth-

ſouth-eaſtern extremity the banks of the Dee afford fine paſture and meadow land; and cheeſe is made in theſe parts equal to the Cheſhire. The varied charms of the country about Wrexham and the ſeats of Wynnſtay, Chirk-caſtle, and Erddig, have been much admired. At Llangollen the ſcenes are more romantic and ſublime, on approaching the lofty *Berwyn* mountains, which ſeparate this county from that of Merioneth.

Northwards is the hundred of *Yale*, hilly, productive of graſs, and abounding with cattle, but bare and dreary to the view. Then, from its middle of the county, commences the celebrated *Vale of Clwyd*; in the tract of which lie the towns of Ruthin and Denbigh. From its upper end to the ſea it ſtretches upwards of twenty miles. Its breadth varies from three miles to eight, according to the approach or receſs of the high mountains encloſing it, through which in different parts are gaps formed by nature for entrances. This delightful ſpot is in a high

ſtate of cultivation, even far up the aſcent of the hills; and is full of towns, villages, and gentlemen's ſeats. The river *Clwyd* runs along the vale, and is joined by ſeveral ſmall ſtreams from the neighbourhood.

On the weſtern ſide the county becomes more uniformly alpine, with frequent ſmall lakes and deep narrow vales, interſperſed amidſt naked mountains. The northern part, towards the ſea, is more level; and from Abergelly ſinks into the extenſive plain of Rhuddlan.

The products of Denbighſhire are chiefly corn, cheeſe, and cattle; though it alſo partakes with Flintſhire in ſome of the lead mines on its borders, and has others in the ſouth-weſtern part, together with coals. It is pretty well wooded with old plantations, and ſome extenſive new ones have been made.

Denbigh, the capital, is finely ſituated on a rocky declivity above the Vale of Clwyd. Its ruined caſtle, with its vaſt encloſure crowning the top of the hill, forms a ſtriking object.

object. Denbigh has a pretty conſiderable manufacture of gloves and ſhoes, which are ſent to London for exportation.

Ruthin, placed in the Vale near its head, is a very neat and well-inhabited town.

The moſt populous town in this county, and indeed in all North Wales, is *Wrexham*. It is a place of conſiderable traffic, and noted for its fairs. Wrexham is of Saxon origin, and retains the language and appearance of an Engliſh town. Its old church, diſtinguiſhed by a profuſion of gothic ornaments, and by a very large and lofty tower, is the boaſt of this part of the country. Near Wrexham is a large foundry for cannon and other articles.

Wool is wrought up in the domeſtic manufactures of this county, into cloths of different fineneſs, and ſtockings.

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

THIS county is ſurrounded by the ſea on all ſides except the eaſt, where it joins to Denbighſhire, and a ſmall part of the ſouth contiguous to Merionethſhire. Its figure is very irregular, a great peninſulated point running out from it to the ſouth-weſt. From the extremity of this point to the north-eaſtern point meaſures forty-five miles. The breadth is very various.

Caernarvonſhire is the moſt rugged and truly alpine diſtrict of North Wales. Its central part is entirely occupied by the famed *Snowdon*, and the ſeveral craggy ſummits, deep dells, moors, chaſms, and lakes, which conſtitute its dreary region. The woods which once clothed this tract are now no more. Cattle, ſheep, and goats, are almoſt its ſole rural riches. Theſe are fed during ſummer very high on the mountains, tended by their owners, who reſide for

for that ſeaſon in temporary huts, and make butter and cheeſe for their own conſumption. The vales yield a little meadow graſs for hay, which is got in without the aid of wheel carriages, the uneven ſurface of the ground not admitting their uſe. The inhabitants, who live in a ſtate of the utmoſt ſimplicity, manufacture their clothes from the wool of their own flocks. A little oatmeal, added to the produce of their dairies, conſtitutes their food. The proſpects around are rude and ſavage in the higheſt degree; but not without a mixture of beauty, when the dimenſions of the vales admit the varieties of wood, water, and meadow. In ſome of the lakes are found the char, with the gwyniad, another alpine fiſh. Foxes are the chief wild animals. Many rare vegetables, met with only on the moſt elevated ſpots, grow here. Copper mines have been worked in various parts of theſe mountains, and are at preſent about Llanberris. Other places of the county afford lead. Quarries of a ſtone excellent for hones are dug near Snowdon.

The *vale of Conway*, in which the river of that name runs along the whole eaſtern border of the county, is a long and narrow tract, equally romantic and beautiful. It affords rich paſturage, corn fields, and groves; and forms a pleaſing contraſt to the bleak region of Snowdon frowning above it.

The reſt of Caernarvonſhire lies along its extenſive ſea-coaſt, which we ſhall now trace.

The promontory of *Llandudno*, or the *Great Ormes-head*, belonging to this county, though acroſs the Conway, is a fine ſheep-walk, ending in a ſteep precipice over the ſea, the haunt of various ſea fowl in the breeding ſeaſon, and inhabited by that fine ſpecies of hawk, the peregrine falcon.

At the mouth of the river *Conway* is the town of that name, a ſmall place with a little port, diſtinguiſhed by the maſſy remains of its noble caſtle, formerly one of the moſt magnificent edifices of the kind in the kingdom.

Beyond

Beyond this is the once tremendous precipice of *Penmaenmawr*, overhanging the ſea; now ſecurely croſſed by a good road.

The ſmall city of *Bangor*, on the *Menai*, or ſtrait ſeparating this county from Angleſey, next ſucceeds; and not far from it, on the ſame ſtrait, the capital, *Caernarvon*. This laſt is a pleaſant well-built town, inhabited by many genteel families, and carrying on a conſiderable trade by ſea with Ireland and the principal Engliſh ports. It has a caſtle of remarkable grandeur, built by Edward I. the conqueror of Wales, in which he gave the Welſh, according to his equivocating promiſe, a native prince for their ſovereign, in the perſon of his own ſon, Edward II. born in this caſtle.

Nothing remarkable occurs on the coaſt till its ſouthern extremity in the peninſulated hundred of *Llyn*. This is in general flat, though ſprinkled with rocky hills. Its chief produce are oats, barley, and black cattle, of which vaſt numbers are annually exported. Quantities of fiſh, eſpecially herrings,

herrings, are caught round the ſhore; and lobſters abound on it. Many ſharp points of land run into the ſea, forming bays between them. Off the moſt weſterly point lies the ſmall *iſle of Bardſey*, once famous for a convent, the reſort of numerous monks. The principal town at this end of Caernarvonſhire is *Pwllheli*, a tolerable port, poſſeſſed of ſome trade.

ANGLESEY.

THIS iſland, which conſtitutes one of the counties of North Wales, is ſituated to the north-weſt of Caernarvonſhire, from which it is ſeparated by the long and narrow ſtrait called the *Menai*. It is of a rhomboidal ſhape, but deeply cut and indented on three of the ſides. Its northern, eaſtern, and weſtern points are ſharp and narrow; the ſouthern angle is more rounded. From point to point the length is about twenty miles, and breadth about twenty-two.

The part of the iſland bordering the Menai is finely wooded, recalling to the mind its ancient ſtate when it was the celebrated ſeat of the Druids, the terrific rites of whoſe religion were performed in the gloom of the thickeſt groves. Rude mounds and heaps of ſtones, ſuppoſed to be Druidical remains, are yet to be ſeen here. A little way within, however, the whole country changes

changes its aſpect into a naked tract, without trees, or even hedges, riſing in ſmall hills, watered by numerous rills, and fertile in graſs and corn.

The products of Angleſey are corn and cattle. In favourable years large quantities of barley and oats are exported by ſea; and ſeveral thouſand head of cattle, beſides multitudes of ſheep and hogs, annually croſs the ferry of the Menai to the main land. Its fertility is of ancient reputation, for it had long ago acquired the title of *the nurſing mother of Wales*.

But the wealth and population of Angleſey have lately received a great increaſe from the diſcovery of the famous copper mine on *Parys mountain*, the largeſt bed of ore of that metal probably known in the world. It is wrought not in the common manner of ſubterraneous mines, but, like a ſtone-quarry, open to day; and the quantities of ore raiſed are prodigious. The ore is poor in quality, and very abundant in ſulphur. The pureſt part is exported raw

to

to the ſmelting works at Swanſea and other places; the more impure is firſt calcined and deprived of moſt of its ſulphur on the ſpot. Quantities of nearly pure copper are obtained from the waters lodged beneath the bed of ore, by the intervention of iron. A lead ore rich in ſilver is alſo found in the ſame mountain.

In the north-weſtern part of the iſland is a quarry of green marble, intermixed with that curious ſubſtance, aſbeſtus.

The principal town in Angleſey is *Beaumaris*, a neat well-built place with a caſtle founded by Edward I. It has no trade, but the bay before it affords good anchorage, and is a frequent refuge for ſhips in ſtormy weather.

The decayed town of *Newborough* ſubſiſts only by a manufacture of mats and ropes made of the ſea reed-graſs, which binds together the ſandy hills on the coaſt.

On the weſtern point of the iſland is *Holyhead*, well known as the moſt commodious place of paſſage to and from Dublin, and as the

the ſtation of the packets. The head protecting the harbour, forms a vaſt precipice above the ſea, hollowed by caverns, and frequented by falcons and ſea-fowl.

The ſteep rocky iſlet of *Prieſtholme*, off the eaſtern point, is a noted reſort of ſea-fowl, eſpecially the puffin, which breeds there in the rabbit burrows. This bird, though very oily and fiſhy, is by ſome thought a delicacy when pickled.

The *Skerries*, or *iſle of Seals*, at the northern point, is a rocky little iſland, poſſeſſed by a few ſheep, rabbits, and puffins, and having upon it a light-houſe of great uſe to mariners. Its ſides are frequented by vaſt ſhoals of fiſh, and ſeals which prey upon them.

MERIONETHSHIRE.

This county is bounded on the north by Caernarvonſhire and Denbighſhire, on the eaſt by the latter county and that of Montgomery, and on the weſt by the Iriſh ſea. Its form is irregularly triangular, gradually contracting as it runs ſouthwards till it terminates almoſt in a point. It meaſures thirty-ſix miles from north to ſouth, and thirty-four acroſs in its broadeſt part.

The face of this county is varied throughout with a moſt romantic mixture of all the peculiar ſcenery belonging to a wild and mountainous region. Leſs dreary than Caernarvonſhire, as being much better clothed with wood, it is not leſs fertile in objects which impreſs the mind with awful aſtoniſhment. Of a country thus compoſed it will ſuffice to point out ſome of the moſt remarkable and leading features.

Beneath the lofty Berwyn hills, at the

north-eaſtern angle of the county, ſpreads the fine vale in which the infant *Dee* flows; which ſtream, traced towards its ſource, ſoon leads to the *lake of Bala*, or *Pimblemeer*, a fine expanſe of clear water, emboſomed in hills and well ſtored with fiſh. The town of *Bala* on its bank is noted for a great trade in knit woollen ſtockings, the product of the induſtry of both ſexes in the circumjacent country, by which not only the wool of their own mountains, but much purchaſed in Denbighſhire, is wrought up. The venerable Dee receives its name only on leaving Bala lake; yet ſome trace its head higher, to the foot of the lofty mountain Aran, which the poet Spenſer makes the reſidence of the ſage Timon, foſter-father to Prince Arthur.

His dwelling is full low in valley green,
Under the foot of Rauran, moſſie hore,
From whence the river Dee, as ſilver clean,
His tumbling billows rolls with gentle rore.

FAIRY QUEEN.

South of this ſpot begins the Alpine region, with narrow deep vallies, between high,

high, verdant, and precipitous hills, and moors affording peat, the only fuel of the country. The *Dovy*, a conſiderable river, rolls through the bottoms; and, after waſhing the ſmall town of *Dinaſmowddwy*, croſſes a part of Montgomeryſhire, and at laſt forms the ſouthern boundary of Merionethſhire. All this country abounds in ſheep, the wool of which is manufactured upon the ſpot into ſtockings and flannels.

Above the little town of *Dolgelleu*, ſoars the great mountain *Cader Idris*, one of the loftieſt in Wales; beyond which, towards the ſea, are firſt round ſmooth hills, the extenſive ſheep-walks of the country, and then a flat, conſiſting of meadows and black turberies.

North of Dolgelleu the alpine tract again commences, enlivened with woods and frequent caſcades. Some of the lakes afford char and ſingular crooked-backed trouts. This ſort of country extends to the north-weſtern angle of Merionethſhire, in which is ſituated the ſmall but ſtrikingly beautiful

vale of Feſtiniog. Some ſtrangely ſequeſtered ſituations, inacceſſible without hazard, yet not without their charms, and the ſeats of ſimplicity and ruſtic competence, are formed amid the ſavage ſcenery of this wild region.

Harlech on the coaſt, though the capital of the county, is a very poor town, diſtinguiſhed only by its almoſt entire caſtle, another work of the great ſubduer of Wales.

The only port of Merionethſhire is *Barmouth*, on a little arm of the ſea, into which ſeveral ſmall rivulets diſcharge themſelves. It is a harbour of difficult entrance, and not much frequented, though ſome years ago conſiderable quantities of the manufactures of the county were exported from it.

Near the mouth of the Dovy are large iron works.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

THIS county on the north touches upon thoſe of Denbigh and Merioneth, on the weſt upon the latter and that of Cardigan, on the ſouth upon Radnorſhire, and on the eaſt upon Shropſhire. It meaſures, from the angle in its northern border to its ſouthern, about thirty-ſix miles, and from eaſt to weſt nearly the ſame.

Montgomeryſhire, though barren and mountainous in many parts, has yet a greater mixture of fertile vale and plain than ſeveral of the Welſh counties. The moſt conſiderable of the level tracts is that through which the *Severn* flows. This fine river, riſing in the huge mountain of *Plynlimmon*, ſituated partly in this county and partly in that of Cardigan, runs firſt almoſt acroſs the ſouthern ſide of Montgomeryſhire, and then, turning northwards, enters Shropſhire from the eaſt above the Brythen hills.

Other vales accompany the numerous tributary rills which feed the infant Severn. Of theſe ſtreams the largeſt are the *Vyrnew*, formed of two uniting branches of the ſame name which croſs the county from its weſtern ſide; and the *Tannat*, forming part of the Denbighſhire boundary, and meeting the Vyrnew before it joins the Severn. Theſe rivers are remarkable for the great variety of fiſh contained in their waters; among which is the ſalmon, which viſits not only theſe remote ſtreams, but even penetrates up the Severn almoſt to the foot of Plynlimmon.

The riches of Montgomeryſhire proceed from its ſheep and wool, and the flannels and other coarſe cloths manufactured from it. The hilly tracts are almoſt entirely ſheep-walks; and the flocks, like thoſe of Spain, are driven from diſtant parts to feed on them during ſummer; the farms in the ſmall vallies being only a ſort of appendages for winter habitations and proviſions. The manufactures are collected through the country and ſent to Welſh Pool, whence they

they are carried in a rough ſtate to Shrewſbury to be finiſhed and exported. Dyer gives a lively deſcription of this traffic:

The northern Cambrians, an induſtrious tribe,
Carry their labours on pygmean ſteeds,
Of ſize exceeding not Leiceſtrian ſheep,
Yet ſtrong and ſprightly; over hill and dale
They travel unfatigued, and lay their bales
In Salop's ſtreets, beneath whoſe lofty walls
Pearly Sabrina waits them with her barks,
And ſpreads the ſwelling ſheet.

FLEECE.

This county alſo affords mineral treaſures. An uncommonly rich lead mine was wrought many years with vaſt profit at Llangynnog in the northern angle, but is now overpowered by water. Near the ſame place is a large ſlate quarry. Slate is alſo got near the conflux of the Vyrnew and Severn, and ſent down that river to Briſtol; and on a limeſtone rock in the neighbourhood are burned amazing quantities of lime, which is carried all over the county, where that article is for the moſt part wanting. Coals

are not found in this county, whence the inhabitants are obliged to uſe wood or peat for their ſcanty fuel.

Of the towns in Montgomeryſhire little is to be ſaid. *Montgomery*, the capital, is a ſmall neat place, without trade. Various military actions have happened in or near it, among which was a hot engagement in the civil wars of Charles I. terminating in a complete victory on the ſide of the Parliament.

Welſh Pool is the principal trading town of the county, being the great mart for flannels, as before mentioned. The Severn begins to be navigable a little way below this place.

Llanidloes, a ſmall town in the midſt of the feeding and manufacturing tract, has a great market for woollen yarn.

RADNORSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Montgomeryſhire, on the eaſt by Shropſhire and Herefordſhire, on the ſouth and ſouth-weſt by Brecknockſhire, and on the north-weſt by Cardiganſhire. Its form is nearly triangular, growing narrower ſouthwards. Its greateſt length is twenty-ſix miles, its greateſt breadth thirty-one.

The river *Wye* forms its ſeparation from Brecknockſhire almoſt the whole length of their common border. This river, ſpringing out of Plynlimmon hill, very near the ſource of the Severn, croſſes the north-eaſtern corner of Radnorſhire, giving name to the town of *Rhyaidergowy*, or the fall of the Wye, where it is precipitated in a cataract; and then, flowing between the counties of Radnor and Brecon, at their termination turns ſhort into Herefordſhire. Into the Wye flow ſeveral rivulets croſſing Radnor-

ſhire from the north, of which the principal is the *Ython*.

The county of Radnor has proportionally more cultivated land than ſome of the other Welſh ones; its eaſtern and ſouthern parts being tolerably level, and productive of corn. The other parts are rude and mountainous, and chiefly devoted to the rearing of cattle and ſheep. The north-weſtern angle is an abſolute deſert, almoſt impaſſable. This was the retreat of the Britiſh King Vortigern, after he had felt the fatal effects conſequent on his imprudent act of calling in the Saxons to his aſſiſtance.

The three principal towns lie in a cluſter on the eaſtern ſide.

New Radnor, the county town, is a very inconſiderable place, and has loſt the privilege of holding the aſſizes.

Theſe are held at *Preſteign*, ſituated in a rich valley near the ſource of the Lug. This is a neat and well inhabited town.

Knighton, juſt to the north of the laſt, is a place of ſome trade.

CARDIGANSHIRE.

This county ſtretches along the ſea-coaſt in a bending line from north-eaſt to ſouth-weſt, forming, in conjunction with the coaſt of Merionethſhire, the large lunated bay of Cardigan, protected by the peninſula of Caernarvonſhire to the north-weſt; the frequent ſhelter of veſſels in contrary winds. On the land ſide Cardiganſhire is bounded northwards by a point of Merionethſhire, from which it is ſeparated by the mouth of the Dovy and by Montgomeryſhire; eaſtwards by the counties of Radnor and Brecknock, and ſouthwards by thoſe of Caermarthen and Pembroke; the river Tyvy forming the greateſt part of the ſouthern limit. Its extent along the ſhore is near forty miles; its breadth acroſs, in the wideſt part, leſs than twenty.

The ſea-coaſt of Cardiganſhire has ſuffered greatly from the depredations of the ſea, an

extenſive tract formerly celebrated for numerous towns now only containing a few poor villages. It is however in high eſtimation for the growth of barley, of which much is ſent to the adjacent counties for ſeed. The manure made uſe of is ſea-weed. This tract is level, particularly at the ſouth-weſtern extremity. The northern and eaſtern parts are mountainous and barren, yet afford paſture for multitudes of ſheep, and in their narrow vales feed large herds of black cattle, and make a good deal of butter and cheeſe. Many ſmall lakes are formed in the hollows on the eaſtern ſide, from one of which iſſues the principal river of the county, the *Tyvy*, or *Teivy*. This at firſt burſts its way through a very rocky tract, till, forming a regular channel, it paſſes Tregarron, and, arriving at the border of Caermarthenſhire at Llanbeder, from thence becomes a boundary of the counties to the ſea.

Several rivulets, taking their riſe from the ſides of Plynlimmon, run directly acroſs

acroſs the northern part of the county. Of theſe are

——————— *Ryddol* rough,
Blithe *Iſtwith*, and *Clewedoc* ſwift of foot.

FLEECE.

Theſe ſmall ſtreams, with many others in the mountainous tracts of Wales, which in dry weather are mere ſhallow brooks, by rains are often ſwelled to furious torrents, bearing down every thing before them, and tearing up even the ſoil of the vallies, which they fill with barren gravel and ſtones.

The exports of Cardiganſhire are black cattle, taken to Kent and Eſſex; pigs and ſalt butter to Briſtol, and barley and oats to Briſtol and Liverpool.

The mountains of this county in many parts contain lead and other minerals; but coals and other fuel are as ſcarce here as in the neighbouring counties.

The towns are of little conſequence.

Cardigan, the county town, ſituated near the mouth of the Tyvy, is a tolerably well-built

built and populous place. At *Llechwydd* in its neighbourhood are iron and tin works.

Aberiſtwyth, at the mouth of the Iſtwyth, has a ſmall coaſting trade. The herring-fiſhery, which once flouriſhed here, is at an end, on account of the deſertion of the fiſh. This town is a reſort for ſea-bathing. Its port, as well as all others in the county, is unſafe.

Rhos-fair, near the ſource of the Tyvy, is noted for its fairs for ſheep and black cattle,

PEMBROKESHIRE.

The county of Pembroke forms the ſouth-weſtern extremity of Wales, and is ſurrounded by the ſea except on the north-eaſt, where it is ſeparated by the Tyvy from Cardiganſhire; and the eaſt, where it is contiguous to Caermarthenſhire. It is very irregularly ſhaped both towards the land and the ſea, ſo that its ſize can ſcarcely be meaſured; however, its length may be eſtimated at twenty-ſeven miles, and its extreme breadth at thirty.

A great part of this county is plain, and tolerably fertile, conſiſting of rich meadow and arable land. The north-eaſtern part alone is mountainous; it, however, yields good paſture for ſheep and cattle. The ſouthern part produces good crops of grain, and alſo contains large quantities of coal and culm (which is an inferior ſort of coal); and its coaſts abound with iron ſtone. The

fiſheries

fiſheries on the coaſt are valuable. Pembrokeſhire is rather a growing than a corn country. It exports a great number of oxen, and its breed are in particular eſteem with the drovers. Salt butter and cheeſe are conſiderable articles of exportation; and large profits are made by the breeding of hogs.

Its principal rivers are the *Cledheu*, eaſt and weſt, which, riſing in the northern part, unite at a ſmall diſtance from Milford-haven, into which they diſcharge themſelves.

The ſea-coaſt is in general hilly, with ſteep or perpendicular cliffs. We ſhall trace it from its north-eaſtern point at the mouth of the Tyvy.

The firſt remarkable place is *Newport-bay*, at the bottom of which, on a ſmall river, is ſituated the town of *Newport*, an inconſiderable harbour.

Fiſgard bay ſucceeds, with a town of the ſame name, which ſhares in the herring-fiſhery.

From hence the coaſt winds round *Strumble-*

Strumble-head to that of *St. David's*, off which lies *Ramſey iſland*, together with a group of rocks, frequented in the breeding ſeaſon by vaſt multitudes of ſea-fowl. The city of *St. David's* is a very inconſiderable place, at the extremity of a moſt dreary tract of country.

The large *bay of St. Bride's* ſucceeds, a ſafe retreat for veſſels in all winds but the ſouth-weſt; and beyond ſome iſlands on its ſouthern ſide is the entrance to the celebrated *Milford-haven*. This is a deep inlet of the ſea, branching off into ſo many creeks, ſecured from all winds, and capable of receiving the largeſt veſſels, that it is reckoned the ſafeſt and moſt capacious harbour in Great Britain. Its remote ſituation, however, greatly impairs its utility either for the purpoſes of commerce, or as a ſtation for ſhips of war. Men of war, indeed, are ſometimes built here; and forts have been erected to defend the harbour. It was at Milford-haven that the Earl of Richmond, afterwards King Henry VII. landed

on his enterprise against Richard III. Oysters are found in considerable quantities in this bay. A new town has been planned at Milford for a colony of quakers from Nantucket in America, who have been encouraged to establish a whale-fishery from this country to the southern hemisphere.

Pembroke, the county town, situated on a creek of this bay, is a well-built place, but in a state of decline, the navigation to it being injured by the rubbish of the lime-stone quarries near it.

The last place on the coast to be noticed is *Tenby*, at the head of a small bay, with a little port, and a good road for ships before it. This is a town of brisk trade, large quantities of coal and culm being shipped from it for Ireland and other places.

The principal inland town of this county is *Haverford-west*, situated on a river flowing into Milford-haven, which is navigable to the town for vessels of moderate burthen. It is a well-built and considerable place, and inhabited by many genteel families.

The

The country hereabouts, between the two branches of the Cledheu, was ſettled in the time of Henry I. by a colony of Flemings, whoſe language, manners, and national induſtry, long diſtinguiſhed them from the ſurrounding natives, with whom they had frequent quarrels. The names of places in this part are, indeed, at preſent manifeſtly different from thoſe of the Welſh: and Engliſh is the current language of the county.

Near the ſmall town of *Kilgarran* on the Tyvy is a remarkable ſalmon leap, which gives occaſion to the capture of that fiſh in great abundance. Above this place are large works for the fabricating of tin plates.

CAERMARTHENSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Cardiganſhire, on the eaſt by Brecknockſhire, on the weſt by Pembrokeſhire, and on the ſouth partly by Glamorganſhire and partly by the ſea. It extends from eaſt to weſt above forty-five miles, but in the contrary direction little more than twenty.

The general ſurface of Caermarthenſhire is hilly; and in the northern and eaſtern parts, the hills riſe into mountains. The vales are for the moſt part narrow, and the hills riſe abruptly from the ſkirts of the ſmall vallies with which this diſtrict is almoſt every where interſected. The vale of Towy is the principal of the level tracts, extending thirty miles up the country, with a breadth of two miles. Near Laugharne is a conſiderable flat tract embanked from the ſea, and of ſingular fertility.

The principal river of the county is the

Towy, which, riſing in Cardiganſhire, enters Caermarthenſhire at its north-eaſtern corner, and, croſſing towards the ſouth-weſt, paſſes Caermarthen, and empties itſelf into a kind of large bay formed by the whole coaſt of this county, ſhut in on each ſide by the projecting ſhores of Pembrokeſhire and Glamorganſhire. The vale of Towy abounds in pictureſque beauties, which from the celebrated Grongar hill, and the ruined caſtle of Dynevor, afford the richeſt proſpects. Many rivulets join the Towy in its courſe; and ſeveral others in the county run ſeparate to the ſea, among which is the *Taff*, which comes down from Pembrokeſhire.

The climate of Caermarthenſhire is not favourable to wheat. Barley ſucceeds better; but the moſt profitable crop is oats; of which large quantities are exported to Briſtol and other places. Numbers of black cattle are bred in the county; and much butter is made for exportation. Its rivers and ſea-coaſt abound in fiſh, eſpecially ſalmon. It has been extremely well wooded, but great waſte has of late years been made

of the timber. Coals and limeſtone are plentiful, and it contains lead mines.

The capital of this county, *Caermarthen*, is well built and populous, and is uſually reckoned the firſt town in South Wales. Its river admits veſſels of moderate burthen, which gives it a conſiderable trade.

Llanelly, upon an arm of the ſea running between Glamorganſhire and this county, exports a conſiderable quantity of pit-coal.

From *Kidwelly*, a ſmall town on a creek near the mouth of the Towy, a canal has been cut to ſome collieries, whence coals are brought down and exported.

In the neighbourhood of *Llandovery* conſiderable quantities of woollen ſtockings are manufactured. Some miles to the north of it are great lead mines.

Near *Llandilo-vawr*, a ſmall town on the Towy, was fought the laſt battle between the forces of Edward I. and of Llewellin Prince of Wales, which, proving deciſive againſt the latter, put a final period to the independency of Wales.

BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

THE county of Brecon is bounded on the north and eaſt by that of Radnor, ſeparated by the river Wye, on the eaſt by a ſmall part of Herefordſhire, on the ſouth-eaſt and part of the ſouth by Monmouthſhire, on the reſt of the ſouth by Glamorganſhire, and on the weſt by Caermarthenſhire and Cardiganſhire. Its form is irregularly triangular, narrowing northwards. Its length is twenty-nine miles; the breadth of its ſouthern baſis thirty-four.

Brecknockſhire is one of the more mountainous counties of Wales, and affords a variety of the ſublime ſcenes, ſome of which are deſcribed in the following lines:

Nor black *Trecarris'* ſteepy height,
Nor waſte *Trecaſtle* gave delight,
Nor clamorous *Hondy's* fall.

DODSLEY'S COLL. IV.

The *Vann*, or *Brecknock beacon*, is reckoned to be the loftieſt mountain in South Wales.

Ridges of hills form the ſeparation of this from moſt of the adjacent counties, and theſe are ſaid to ſhelter it in ſuch a manner as to render it temperate. An ancient writer indeed (*Giraldus Cambrenſis*) dwells chiefly on its being protected to the ſouth from the *heat of the ſun*, and fanned by *cool breezes*: a commendation that implies a difference either in the nature of our climate at that time, or in the feelings of the inhabitants. The land declines towards the banks of the Wye, where it is tolerably fertile, as it is alſo in the vallies watered by its numerous rills; but the proportion of the good land to the bad is eſtimated only at one fourth.

The principal river of the county, next to the boundary one of the Wye, is the *Uſk*, which, taking its riſe from the Black Mountain in the weſtern ſide of this county, on the border of Caermarthenſhire, flows acroſs it through a fine valley to the ſouth-

eaſtern

eaſtern angle, paſſing the town of Brecknock in its way.

——*Uſk*, that frequent among hoary rocks
On her deep waters paints th' impending ſcene,
Wild torrents, crags, and woods, and mountain ſnows.
DYER.

The commodities of Brecknockſhire are cattle, ſheep, wool, and the coarſe cloths and ſtockings manufactured from it.

The county town, *Brecknock*, is moderately large, well built, and inhabited by ſeveral families of gentry. It has a trade in the woollen branches. A little to the eaſt of it is a conſiderable lake well ſtored with fiſh, out of which a rivulet runs to the Wye.

Crickhowell, lower down on the Uſk, is a pretty, but ſmall, market-town.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.

This county has to the north thoſe of Caermarthen and Brecknock, to the weſt Monmouthſhire, ſeparated by the river Rumney, and to the ſouth and weſt the Briſtol channel. The greateſt part of its ſea-coaſt ſwells into a ſemicircular ſweep; but the weſtern extremity is formed into a narrow beak, between the open channel on the one hand and an arm running round to the Carmarthenſhire coaſt on the other. The county meaſures from eaſt to weſt forty-eight miles, from north to ſouth at the deepeſt part only twenty-ſix.

The northern part of Glamorganſhire is very mountainous, barren, and thinly inhabited, ſerving chiefly for the feeding of cattle and ſheep. Various rivers riſe in it, which run ſouthwards through vales gradually expanding, ſo as to form a middle diſtrict tolerably fit for cultivation, and well clothed

clothed with wood, at length terminating in the great level or vale of Glamorgan. This is a tract extending along the ſea-coaſt to eight or ten miles inland, the moſt fertile part of Wales, rich in corn and paſture, and well furniſhed with the mineral treaſures of coals, lead, iron, and limeſtone. A native bard of the county, Mr. Edward Williams, paints it in the following pleaſing colours.

Glamorgan, boaſt thy ſky ſerene;
Thy health inſpiring gales;
Thy ſunny plains, luxuriant green;
Thy graceful mountains' airy ſcene;
Their wild romantic vales.

Of theſe rivers the principal, beſides the boundary one of *Rumney*, are, firſt the *Taafe*, an extremely rapid ſtream, entering the ſea at Caerdiff. Upon this river, not far from Caerphilly, is a ſtone bridge called *Pont y Pridd*, of a ſingle arch, ſuppoſed one of the wideſt in the world, being one hundred and forty feet in the ſpan and thirty-four high, planned and executed by the untaught genius

nius of a common maſon in this county. Then the *Elwy*, whoſe mouth is very near the former, at Pennarth: the *Neath*, coming down from Brecknockſhire, and falling into the ſea below the town of its own name; and the *Tawy*, flowing parallel to the Neath, and diſcharging itſelf into Swanſey bay.

Caerdiff, the county town of Glamorganſhire, is a place of moderate ſize, handſome and populous, with a commodious port, which gives it a coaſting trade of ſome extent. In the ancient caſtle of this town, after a cruel confinement of many years inflicted by his brother King Henry I. died Robert the depoſed Duke of Normandy, eldeſt ſon of William the Conqueror.

Landaff, a few miles from this town, is a very ſmall and mean place, though a city. It is obſervable that the four epiſcopal ſeats in Wales, Bangor, St. Aſaph, St. David's, and Landaff, are at preſent four of the meaneſt and leaſt flouriſhing places in the whole principality.

Caerphilly, near the border of Monmouthſhire,

ſhire, is a place of great antiquity, and noted for the majeſtic ruins of a caſtle ſaid to have been the largeſt in the kingdom next to that of Windſor.

The aſſizes for the county are held at the ſmall but neat town of *Cowbridge*.

Neath has a ſmall harbour from whence coals are exported. In its neighbourhood are iron forges, ſmelting works for copper, and many coal mines.

Swanſey is by much the moſt conſiderable commercial town in the county, an advantage it derives from a good port at the mouth of the Tawy, and from the great plenty of coals in its neighbourhood. Of theſe it ſends great quantities to Ireland and the ſouthern coaſt of England. It has a conſiderable trade to Briſtol for groceries and ſhop goods. The buſineſs of Swanſey has lately been increaſed by the eſtabliſhment of great works for the ſmelting of copper ore, particularly that of Angleſey, and alſo of lead ore. Many ſhips have been built here, and it is become a place of reſort for ſea-bathing.

The

The peninſulated extremity of the county beyond Swanſey bay, called *Gower*, has very lofty limeſtone cliffs next the ſea, from whence great quantities of lime are exported to the Engliſh counties acroſs the channel. The coaſt abounds with oyſters. The land is a fertile tract of arable and paſturage.

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